

### Oslo to extradite Iranians to Russia

OSLO (R) — Norway's justice ministry decided on Tuesday to extradite to Russia three Iranians who hijacked an Aeroflot airliner to Oslo last year. "A firm attitude towards plane hijackings has reduced the problem in recent years," Justice Minister Grete Faremo said in a statement, adding that extradition was in accordance with international practice. The three men, aged 20, 28 and 35, used grenades and a fake bomb to seize the Russian airliner with about 50 people on board on Sept. 15 last year. The plane was on its way from the Azeri capital Baku to the Russian town of Perm. The hijackers forced the pilot to fly to Norway. They gave themselves up without injuring anyone after five hours of negotiations at Oslo's Gardermoen airport. The three men, who said they wanted to make a protest against human rights abuses in Iran, applied for political asylum in Norway.

### Grenade wounds 4 Israelis in Bethlehem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Four Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded in a hand grenade attack on Tuesday in the still-occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem. The sources said the grenade was thrown into the courtyard of the local Israeli occupation headquarters.

### Mubarak, UAE leaders meet in Geneva

GENEVA (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held an unannounced meeting on Tuesday with the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, diplomats said. They said that among the subjects the two had been expected to discuss was the future administration of the new Palestinian self-rule areas and the status of Jerusalem. The meeting follows talks between Sheikh Zayed and Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat in Geneva on Saturday, which were said to have focused on the financing of the administration of Gaza Strip and Jericho.

### Iraq blames U.S. for car-bomb

NICOSIA (AP) — An official Iraqi newspaper on Tuesday blamed "partisans of President Clinton" for a bombing that killed a child and wounded 13 other people in Baghdad. Monday's car-bomb exploded near the offices of Al Jumhuriya newspaper, according to the government's Iraqi News Agency (INA). The agency quoted Al Jumhuriya newspaper as saying: "We do not expect Clinton to denounce this crime for two reasons. The first is that the criminals are from the partisans of the American president, who carry out the orders of his agents and intelligence apparatuses." The second reason is that "the American president is personally responsible for bigger crimes which are being committed against the Iraqi people, at the top (of this list is) the embargo," the newspaper added.

### Algerian socialists refuse part in talks

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian socialist party Tuesday rejected appeals to join talks between the military-backed government and five opposition parties on the country's future. The Socialist Forces Front said it did not trust President Liamine Zeroul's government to back the democratic parties in the talks. Mr. Zeroul on Monday invited the five opposition parties taking part in talks to meet leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in prison to persuade them to give up the armed struggle against his regime and accept talks (see page 12).

### Iraq invites team to check for prisoners

JAKARTA (R) — Iraq has asked Indonesia's President Suharto to form an international team to investigate claims that Baghdad is holding 600 Kuwaitis captive, the official Antara news agency said on Tuesday. The invitation was addressed to Mr. Suharto in his capacity as head of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Iraq has been accused of capturing the Kuwaitis during its 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait but has long denied the claim. "Members of the fact-finding team should represent Arab countries, Asia, Europe, Africa, South America and Russia," Indonesia's special envoy to NAM, Alamsyah Ratu Periwangara, quoted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as saying during their talks late last month.



AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1994, RAB' ALAWAL 17, 1415

## Jordan made 'specific' proposals to update economic pact with PLO

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has given the Palestine National Authority (PNA) "specific proposals" on ways to conduct future economic and monetary relations which the Kingdom hopes will be studied by the Palestinian side ahead of the next meeting in early September. These proposals, a senior official told the Jordan Times, although not in lieu of an economic accord between the two sides, were in fact elements that Jordan wants to see incorporated into the agreement so that it would be upgraded to a more technical and serious level. He did not reveal the details of the proposals.

Jordan, the official said, "was not disappointed" that Jordanian-Palestinian meetings on Sunday and Monday did not produce a signing of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement because the Kingdom was seeking to update the pact from its previous general form to a more technical and specific one.

"We want to update the

pact and get way more specific," another official said also on condition of anonymity. "We are not in a hurry at all."

Jordan and the Palestinians have twice drafted an economic pact to govern their future cooperation, in January and in April, but the Palestinians have stalled over the signing of the accord because of articles in that agreement, among other things, which give the Central Bank of Jordan authority on the operation of banks in the West Bank and Gaza, something that the Palestinians felt took away from the symbols of their sovereignty.

The accord, a one and a half page summary of objectives, remained a source of continued uneasiness between the two sides after it first became apparent that the Palestinians were not ready to commit themselves to its general guidelines.

While the Palestinian delegates who held talks here this week were still not mandated from their leadership to conclude any agreements, the Jordanians say that they found a new sense of "pragmatism and commitment"

from the Palestinian side.

"They arrived with a new conciliatory tone that was apparently a result of dealing with the reality on the ground in the occupied territories," one official told the Jordan Times.

Privately, officials add, Palestinian delegates "did not have all the economic knowledge to conduct the kind of technical negotiations that were needed before any agreement can be reached and signed."

"This is why we have given them written and specific proposals which can be studied by the Palestinian economists and we will hopefully be able to discuss them in more detail during the next meeting," the official said.

During the two-day meetings, according to the Jordanian officials, many of the Palestinian questions and grievances were addressed "hopefully satisfactorily."

One of the Palestinian delegation's main concerns, according to sources, was Jordan's "dealing with the Palestinian self-rule authority as if it is only in charge of Gaza and Jericho and not an authority that would expand

to cover the whole West Bank."

This grievance is apparently in reference to the Kingdom's agreement with Israel to export \$30 million in consumer goods to the West Bank areas outside the self-rule authority.

"We realise that this must be upsetting to them, but it is necessary for us to do that because this is what their own agreement with Israel has produced," a senior official said.

"We told them that we can only deal with the development on the Palestinian front stage by stage," he added, explaining that the reason Jordan had to gain the permission of Israel to export ceramics, for example, "is because the Palestinian self-rule authority cannot provide Jordan with an import licence or open the entry points for Jordanian exports."

"We can understand their grievance but this is also the reality that they had created," the official added.

Jordan's main message to the Palestinian side, according to officials, was that they

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## Jordan-Israel border commission in north

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Jordan opened negotiations Tuesday over a border dispute in the northern Golan Heights, one of several key issues that have to be overcome before a peace agreement could be signed.

The talks centre on a small, fertile crescent of land totalling less than 10 square kilometres. It is just south of the Sea of Galilee, reports said.

The land in question, bordered by the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, is cultivated by a kibbutz.

The talks follow a non-belligerence declaration signed in Washington July 25 by Israel and the subsequent opening of a border crossing near the Red Sea ports of Eilat and Aqaba on Aug. 8.

The 46-year formal state of war between them meant the border was never demarcated. Jordan is claiming some 380 square kilometres in farm and desert land currently under Israeli control.

The Jordanian demands

for its land and greater access to water resources abutting the border are the most difficult issues in the negotiations.

Police blocked reporters from reaching the site of Tuesday's talks at Beit Givri, just north of the point of dispute and about three kilometres from the border with Jordan.

Israel Radio said the agenda included technical details about how to resolve the dispute, such as whether maps or experts would be called upon.

Neither the defence nor foreign ministries had any comment on the talks, which were expected to continue through Wednesday.

Israeli officials said the commission was made up of 11 officers — six Israelis and five Jordanians.

The Jordanians would return home late Tuesday, before continuing their work in Israel Wednesday, the officials said.

## Pakistan has atomic bomb, ex-premier Sharif says

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Tuesday that his country has nuclear weapons.

Mr. Sharif, speaking to a public rally at Neela Butt in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, said he would confirm Kashmiri leader Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan's statement that "both Pakistan and India have atomic bombs."

The government's stand to date has been that Pakistan has the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons, but it has decided not to make one — a position also voiced by Mr. Sharif during his rule.

Mr. Sharif, who was in office for two and a half years until he resigned in 1993 amid a political crisis, warned India against launching a nuclear attack against Pakistan.

The independent Pakistani news agency Pakistan Press International (PPI) quoted him as saying: "I confirm that Pakistan possesses an atom bomb."

He also disclosed that dur-

ing his rule, the Pakistan government had given large sums of money to a religious political party for aiding the "jihad (holy war)" in the Indian-controlled southern third of Kashmir.

Mr. Sharif, criticising Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government for what he called an ineffective policy on Kashmir, said Pakistan should extend "all-out" support to the Kashmiri "freedom struggle."

Pakistan has said in the past that it has acquired the capability to make nuclear weapons but has decided as a matter of policy not to make them.

Berlin's justice ministry said on Tuesday it was still investigating a possible Pakistani link to nuclear smuggling.

Ministry spokesman Frank Thiel said the documents, which led Berlin police to suspect Islamabad had some part in an illegal plutonium trade, turned out not to implicate Pakistan.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is seen off and Minister of State Abdul Baqi Jammoh upon his departure for the U.S. on Tuesday by Interior Minister Saleh Hamad (right) (Petra photo)

## Negotiations have natural ups and downs — Majali

### Every point was covered in talks with Palestinians, premier says before flying to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday the speed of progress in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations varies from time to time and that he thought that the negotiations were blocked at any point in time was wrong.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, before departing to the U.S., Dr. Majali said Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on any issue, no matter how simple, would consume much efforts and time.

"In fact we discuss basic issues thoroughly and this

takes time, especially when discussing the border and water issues, because it is important to have full agreement between the Jordanian and Israeli sides on these issues to resolve them," he said.

He said that when a negotiator states that no progress was achieved on one day, "the press will make it as if the whole negotiations are stumbling."

He said it was natural to have negotiations progressing or facing obstacles and it is the duty of the negotiator to remove these obstacles.

"Some time ago people thought that the road was blocked as if we were doing nothing but normalising relations (with Israel). This is a flagrant mistake because in fact we are discussing principal issues and because they are principal they take time."

Dr. Majali stressed that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are deeply-rooted. Describing these relations as brotherly, he emphasised that they should not be "affected by light winds" and some differences in views on a certain point.

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## Israelis wound two in Gaza amid PLO law and order moves

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers guarding a Jewish settlement on the autonomous Gaza Strip shot and wounded two Palestinian teenagers, one of them seriously, hospital sources and witnesses said Tuesday.

The soldiers opened fire when youths from Khan Yunis camp threw stones at watch-towers near the Neve Dekalim settlement.

Merfaq Abdul Qader, 15, was shot in the arm and was in serious condition in hospital. Samer Abdul Rahman Hassan, 14, was released after treatment.

More than 44,000 Palestinians live in the sprawling Khan Yunis camp which is surrounded on three sides by an Israeli army base guarding 11 settlements.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian attorney-general said Tuesday that four police officers allegedly responsible for the death under torture of a Palestinian detainee will be tried in civil court next month.

Attorney-General Khaled Al Qudra said the four officers face unspecified prison terms for the beating death of Rafah resident Farid Al Jarbua during interrogation.

"The four officers will be tried at the start of September," Mr. Qudra said in a telephone interview from his Gaza office.

The accused officers were freed a month ago on bail. The trial announcement came after another volatile week in Rafah, where a Palestinian police officer was arrested after shooting dead a 16-year-old boy from a rival clan during an altercation.

The beating death was the first after the Palestinian police took over self-rule in Gaza in May and is considered a test case of the Arafat administration's commitment to democracy (see page 2).

Jarbua, 28, was arrested June 25 in Rafah by Palestinian intelligence agents who suspected that he worked as an Israeli informant and tried to recruit others.

Jarbua died in the night from July 4 to July 5 and Palestinian officials announced his death two days later.

His family said that they were shocked by the state of his body, which was covered with blue and red bruises. Jarbua's death triggered sharp responses from human rights groups and raised fear about the methods of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) police among Palestinians anxious to see an end to the kind of abuses that took place during the Israeli occupation.

The trial decision was welcomed by Hanan Ashrawi, former Palestinian spokeswoman and human rights campaigner who took the case up with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"It is clear that the attor-

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel, PLO reach deal on taxation and budget

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) clinched agreement Tuesday on the last issue holding up the extension of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath announced.

"We have agreed on taxes and the budget," he said.

An agreement on finance was the remaining obstacle following agreements on transferring powers in health care, social welfare, tourism and education.

The two sides would now hammer out the details of a global document setting out the principles of an early transfer of powers in all of the five spheres.

"We are going to finish this track of the negotiations tomorrow (Wednesday)," opening the way to the second phase of Palestinian autonomy, he said.

Dr. Shaath said the trans-

fer of powers in education started Sunday and would be completed in time for the start of the new school year on Sept. 1.

He said the two sides were still working out a timetable to transfer powers in the other four areas, allowing Palestinians to run their own affairs in the West Bank.

The talks opened here Monday at a Cairo hotel with both sides pledging to work all out to reach a deal by the target signing date of Wednesday.

Palestinian self-rule was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho with the signing of the May 4 accord in Cairo.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the accord which was being finalised was a "very important step."

"Gaza and Jericho were the first step and are to be followed by others within the framework of the agreed timetable" set out in September's declaration of principles, he added.

The Palestinians are eager to reach an agreement on early empowerment to move to another phase of the peace deal — a redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank to allow for Palestinian national elections.

Dr. Shaath said both sides were working hard to solve the problems facing them on the last and most difficult sphere — taxation. "But there should be no problem since we agreed to wrap up by Wednesday anyway."

The handover of responsibility for direct taxation of the West Bank's nearly one million Palestinians has been the main obstacle in the talks. The Palestinian authority needs to raise funds for setting a mechanism for collecting taxes and hiring employees.

## Palestinian authority faces test in preventing blood feuds

RAFAH (AFP) — Faithful to bedouin tradition, the family of a 16-year-old boy recently killed in a clash with Palestinian police initially refused to bury his body.

Only after senior Palestinian officials promised a speedy investigation did the elders take possession of the boy's body, instead of first killing a member of another bedouin family in revenge.

In its first serious test case, the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) may face a tough task in enforcing the law and preventing blood feuds among families tied to ancient traditions.

Shaer was killed Saturday night after police stopped a "group of youngsters during a search for criminals. A fight broke out and the police fired in the air and at random, fatally wounding the teenager."

Palestinian police said he was killed by "a... and the seven policemen involved are now under investigation," said Prosecutor General Khaled Al Qudra.

"It's true that tribal traditions are important," Mr. Qudra said.

"But the people also have faith in the law."

Under the pre-1967 Egyptian law in force in the autonomous Gaza Strip, the death penalty can be applied for premeditated murder.

Mohammad Al Shaer, an uncle of the dead teenager, argued that it would be "impossible to make peace with the guilty family."

"We now have a pact, a waiting period until the guilty

person is executed according to Islam and our law.

"The killer must be executed, or people will start shooting and taking the law into their own hands," he warned.

It was not the custom among the bedouin to bury the body "until someone, anyone, from the guilty family has been killed," he explained.

The tradition of blood feuds was suspended during the 27-year Israeli occupation to avoid internal strife and undermining Palestinian resistance.

"Our young activists used to mask their faces and warn people not to shed blood, and we used to reconcile opposing families."

"But that has finished now. We have our national authority and we want a public trial and a public execution," Mohammad Al Shaer said.

The Shaer family claims to have 40,000 members in Gaza and its nomadic lineage goes back a long way.

They settled in Rafah and became urbanised but still revert to their old customs.

Their influence in Rafah was evident when more than 1,200 people turned up at young Shaer's funeral Monday, including senior police and intelligence officers.

There were angry scenes Sunday when hundreds of people marched on the house of the Palestinian policeman they believed shot the youth.

The family of 1st Lieutenant Musa Abu Samahdana, who is being held for questioning in the case, also has a bedouin background.

Although much fewer in number than the Shaer, the Abu Samahdanas have a reputation for toughness, acquired during the intifada.

They executed more than 30 alleged collaborators with Israel, according to witnesses.

At least three of the family members, including Musa, are now in the Palestinian police and intelligence forces.

Both families trade accusations of drug dealing, prostitution and collaboration with Israel.

"During the intifada, our family was in charge of safeguarding morals here," said Suleiman Abu Samahdana, a brother of Musa.

In the name of Fateh Hawks, loyal to Yasser Arafat, "we used to beat some people, put them under house arrest and kill them if necessary," he said, adding that many of those "punished" were from the Shaer family.

But Abu Samahdana laughed off any possibility of vendetta killings.

"We never killed on a personal level, always as Fateh Hawks."

"If everyone takes revenge on us for the killings, there will be no more Abu Samahdanas left."

He insisted his brother Musa was innocent.

"If there is an open trial and enough evidence to implicate him, we will accept the court's decision."

"But if they pass a sentence just to satisfy the Shaer family, we will reject it," he said.



LEBANON-CYPRUS TIES: Cyprus Foreign Minister Aloxios Michaelides (left) shakes the second day of his official visit to Lebanon hands on Tuesday with Lebanese President (AFP photo)

## Diplomats in dark in Egypt-Sudan dispute

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese and Egyptian diplomats have a dim view of each other these days. Cutting electricity to each other's embassy has become the latest tactic in a diplomatic battle.

Diplomats on both sides also reported that they have no running water and few telephone lines.

The utility duel is the latest episode in the deepening rift between Egypt and Sudan that involves a land dispute along with allegations of terrorism and mistreatment of diplomats.

Sudan's embassy in Cairo has been without electricity and water since last Thursday, diplomats told the Associated Press as they sat in their hot, dark quarters.

"This is an escalation and retaliation," said Ibrahim Matar, the Sudanese consul.

"We have a problem."

The telephone operator at Egypt's embassy in the Sudanese capital Khartoum said the building had been without light and water since Sunday.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said that electricity and water also had been cut to Egypt's defence office in Khartoum.

In recent weeks, both sides have filed formal protests about diplomats being roughed up on the streets.

And Cairo has complained that Sudan has confiscated a number of rest houses used by agricultural teams, homes used by teachers and the Egyptians' social club in Khartoum.

Hassan Gad Al Haq, Egypt's ambassador to Sudan who currently is here on holiday, called for an end to the tit-for-tat incidents.

"If there were any differences between the two countries, they should be solved within a framework of understanding," Mr. Haq said.

"We should solve our problems in a civilized manner."

He said there were no plans to reduce Egypt's diplomatic presence in Sudan and added that a planned Egypt-Sudan soccer match would be held as scheduled Sept. 5 in Khartoum.

Relations between the neighbouring countries began souring during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, in which Sudan backed Iraq while Egypt participated in the U.S.-led coalition that liberated Kuwait.

## Freed prisoners see Jericho as new jail

JERICHO (AFP) — The self-rule enclave of Jericho in the West Bank may hold out the promise of freedom for some, but for one group of Palestinians released by Israel, Jericho has come to resemble a new prison.

Abdul Jabbar Ahmad Daud was freed from Israeli detention last week, but he is still unhappy.

"It feels like being transferred from one cell to another bigger one. I don't feel the joy of liberation," Mr. Abdul Jabbar explained, pacing up and down the school yard serving as the former prisoners' new home.

He was among 250 detainees released on condition that they completed their sentences inside the 52-square-kilometre self-rule area.

"My family came to visit yesterday, but they went back to Hebron soon after. We hardly have enough room ourselves to sleep here," he said.

Another former prisoner, Fathi Gailth, complained that up to 15 were sleeping to one room, "in suffocating heat."

Lacking privacy, the former prisoners have found that the school yard is the most practical place to meet their families.

Defying the overcrowding, Um Mahmud, wife of Kamel Kamhawi, spent the night in the school yard with her five children so as to be close to her 45-year-old husband.

"Our joy is not complete since my husband cannot go home" to Nablus, another West Bank town, she said.

But she acknowledged that the Palestinian Authority was treating the prisoners' families well during their stay, giving them food and mattresses.

At the entrance to the school an armed Palestinian guard takes the papers of visitors and returns them when they leave.

Most of those formerly held in Israeli jails were charged with killing suspected Palestinian collaborators, and the authorities want to prevent revenge attacks by the victims' families.

## Bethlehem to have first Palestinian Christmas

BETHLEHEM (AP) — Palestinians will be in charge of Christmas celebrations in the city where Jesus was born for the first time this year, the Israeli and Palestinian tourism ministers said Monday.

"This Christmas will be under the Palestinian authority," Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram told reporters after meeting with Elias Freij, who doubles as Palestinian tourism minister and mayor of Bethlehem.

"We would like to celebrate Christmas this year under the flag of peace," Mr. Freij said. He added that he was considering inviting world leaders to Bethlehem for the event.

It would be a sharp contrast to recent years, when Mr. Freij led efforts each year between 1987 and 1992 to shut the city of 30,000 down at Christmas because of the Palestinian uprising, and Israel's tourism ministry did its best to bring in Christian pilgrims.

Mr. Baram said that the Palestinians would have control of tourism as part of the "early empowerment" phase of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord during which Palestinian authority will extend from the self-rule areas in the Gaza Strip and Jericho into the rest of the West Bank.

The Palestinians are due to assume control of education throughout the West Bank this week, and Israeli and Palestinian teams in Cairo were working out transferring responsibility for taxation, health and welfare to the Palestinians by the end of the year.

The final stage will be the transfer of police power in major West Bank population centres to the Palestinians, due to take place in 1995.

Mr. Freij said that tourism will be a major source of income for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We want to be able to build a successful tourist industry," he said.

Mr. Baram said that a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee would meet next week in order to coordinate Bethlehem Christmas celebrations.

"We have to work together on promotion, marketing and infrastructure," he said. "We must do things in order to improve and to change the celebrations in Bethlehem."

Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have already joined in planning joint regional ventures, and Israel signed a tourism agreement with Jordan last week.

## Fearing Third World deluge, Israel rethinks liberal immigration

TEL AVIV (AP) — Fear that millions of people will try to escape the poverty of Africa, Asia and Latin America by claiming Jewish ancestry to immigrate to Israel is sparking a reassessment of the country's liberal immigration laws.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin called for amending the "law of return" that allows any applicant with one Jewish grandparent instant citizenship, Israel Radio reported Monday.

Mr. Beilin, who was visiting Copenhagen, was quoted as saying the law — passed in 1948 when the Jewish state was destitute and not a potential draw for non-Jews — is too liberal now that Israel is a relatively wealthy, industrialised country.

Mr. Beilin's proposal won swift support from Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, a religious legislator, who said he would fight to amend the law.

"When you have today such misery in Asia and Africa and all kinds of world-savers want to bring to our small and fragile state millions who are not Jews... I am definitely for changing the law of return," Mr. Ravitz told Israel Radio.

The assault on the law, passed in 1948, appears to have been sparked by recent reports that up to 300 million Indians could claim links to the ancient tribe of Menashe.

Israel's immigration minister last week termed the Indian tribe "a curiosity" and advised its members to wait for the Messiah before applying to immi-

grate.

But Israel might have inadvertently created a precedent by allowing some 60 of its members in as tourists during the last two years. They remained as immigrants after agreeing to Israeli rabbi's demands they undergo a strict conversion to Judaism.

According to reports, hundreds of thousands of Indians have approached the Israeli embassy in New Delhi for applications.

In a statement faxed to the Associated Press Monday, the embassy of India in Israel denounced the reports as "sheer exaggeration."

But potential immigrants of debatable Jewishness are found across the globe.

There are reports up to a third of the 600,000 former Soviet citizens who Israel has been struggling to absorb over the past four years are not Jewish.

There are also nearly 20,000 former Ethiopians among the new arrivals, whose difficult adjustment to modern life has sparked unease about a possible onslaught of immigrants from the Third World that could far outnumber Israel's population of 5.4 million.

There is disagreement over whether to accept hundreds of thousands of distant relatives of the Ethiopian Jews who are Christian but also claim Jewish roots or immigration rights on the basis of family reunification.

In Peru, one rabbi has discovered a tribe of apparent native Americans also claiming Jewish roots.

"Imagine that now some

reform rabbis now go to Rwanda and instantly convert a million people," Mr. Ravitz said, referring to the relatively liberal religious conversion policies of the reform branch of Judaism.

Although Israel has a virtual monopoly of the more conservative orthodox stream, the "law of return" recognises reform conversions as well.

Social commentator Zeev Chafetz argued that Israel should cancel the "law of return" but grant Jews preference on a case-by-case basis, excluding "bogus or tangential Jewish credentials."

## Rantisi's trial delayed

EREZ (AFP) — The trial of an alleged Hamas activist was adjourned for the sixth time Tuesday after Palestinian prosecution witnesses failed to attend an Israeli military court held here.

Sources said the court may have to drop charges against Abdul Aziz Rantisi, accused of anti-Israel activities, if the Palestinian prosecution witnesses who live in Gaza fail to appear.

Under the May 4 autonomy accord Israel does not have the right to force residents from the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho to appear in court.

Presiding Judge Colonel Moshe Matalon adjourned Dr. Rantisi's trial for four weeks, but refused a defence request for his release on bail saying it should be put in writing.

## Red tape and tension hamper Kurdish rule

ANKARA (R) — Tension between feuding factions in northern Iraq and bureaucratic red tape in the de-facto Kurdish government have led to deep fissures in the local administration, spokesmen for the Iraqi Kurds said.

"In the 1992 elections the outcome was a 50-50 balance of power, which was necessary at the time," said Saf-ecen Dizayee, Ankara representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

"That worked when everybody, including international media, focused on us," he said.

"But now the system has virtually collapsed with all the bureaucracy and red tape involved."

The English-language Turkish Daily News quoted an Iraqi Kurdish official as saying: "The (50-50) scheme resulted in duality in administrations, duality in military set-up, duality in all forms and thus created hot-tlenecks."

Reports of new clashes at the weekend among the top two factions and Islamic militants underscored the tenuous hold of the local government, a power-sharing deal between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Iranian radio said "heavy casualties" were inflicted in fighting in the Qala Dizeh region. There was no independent report on the number of casualties.

Mr. Dizayee said Iraqi Kurds looked to elections, due in May, for a realistic shift in power and a more streamlined government.

The PUK's Ankara spokesman denied the system had collapsed.

"The system is not so fine," said Shazad Saib. "There are unresolved problems. But it has not collapsed — I deny that. If both parties are very sincere this can work."

Kurds took control of much of northern Iraq after Western forces provided protection following the 1991 Gulf war. In 1992 they held elections, setting up a regional government with the KDP and the PUK sharing power.

But the last two years have witnessed much strife between the two groups in power as well as Muslim militant factions.

The parties said on June 23 they had resolved their dispute after talks in Paris, but Mr. Dizayee reported more sporadic fighting.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Lebanon's Maronite cleric buried**  
BEIRUT (AP) — Maronite Catholic Cardinal Antonios Butros Khreish was buried Monday, eulogised as a man who sought to stifle the sectarian divisions that caused the 1975-90 civil war. Khreish, Lebanon's highest-ranking Maronite cleric, died Friday of natural causes aged 87. He was the only cleric with a Vatican-bestowed cardinal's rank among the one million-strong Maronite community, Lebanon's largest Christian sect. Khreish reigned as patriarch of Antioch and the entire Orient during the first 10 years of the war, in which the majority Muslims rebelled against the Maronite dominance of power. About 150,000 people perished in the conflict, which ended with equal apportioning of power between Muslims and Christians under an Arab League-brokered accord. Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, who succeeded Khreish as head of the Maronite Church in 1985, led the prayers and funeral procession Monday at Bkirki, the traditional hilltop seat of Maronite patriarchs north of Beirut. President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a Sunni Muslim, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim, attended the funeral along with scores of cabinet-ministers.

**S. Arabia to set up ties in East Europe**  
DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is to establish formal diplomatic relations with Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic and boost ties with other Eastern European countries, the Saudi Press Agency said Monday. It said the council of ministers approved a Foreign Ministry proposal to form diplomatic ties with the three countries and appoint non-resident Saudi ambassadors. The council also formally recognised Slovenia, Croatia, Slovak Republic and "other Eastern European nations recognised by the kingdom to give them the opportunity to open embassies in Riyadh if they so desire," the agency reported.

**UAE nationalises university management**  
ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday appointed a local director for the state university as part of a campaign to nationalise its foreign-dominated workforce, the official news agency WAM reported. Hadeef Rashid Al Dahiri, a Western-educated professor, was named chief administrator at the Emirates University, the first UAE national to take up that post since the institution was established in 1976. Four other UAE nationals were appointed his deputies in line with a decision issued by the university's president, Sheikh Nahayan Ben Mubarak Al Nahayan, who is also minister of higher education and research. "The university is receiving its first national director as it enters a new stage of development by reaping the fruits of its efforts to prepare national elements to occupy key posts," Sheikh Nahayan was quoted as saying.

**Australia to reopen embassy in Beirut**  
CANBERRA (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating announced Tuesday that his government would reopen an embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut, closed 10 years ago because of fighting. "The government has decided to reopen the Australian Embassy in Beirut, and to reopen it by June 1995," Mr. Keating told reporters here. Mr. Keating said the government believed the security situation had improved in Beirut although it was by no means perfect. He did not name an ambassador.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30 ..... Tao Tao

17:30 ..... N.B.A. sport

18:30 ..... News in French

18:45 ..... Le Journal De L'Histoire

19:00 ..... News in Hebrew

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... Bob

21:10 ..... The Nature of Things

22:00 ..... News in English

22:30 ..... The Nanny

23:10 ..... Poldark

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:37 ..... Fajr

06:00 ..... (Sunrise) Duha

12:38 ..... Dhuhr

16:16 ..... Asr

18:17 ..... Maghrib

20:29 ..... Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel: 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

Terrassania Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541

Anglican Church Tel: 630851, Tel: 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771751

Armenian International Church Tel: 632526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel: 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 811295

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds westerly moderate to active in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max, temp. 19/31

Amman 26/38

Aqaba 17/34

Jordan Valley 24/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33 Aqaba 40, Humidity

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Mazarabrah ..... 820425

Dr. Mustafa Harzallah ..... 683583

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 682235

Dr. Youssef Rasheed ..... 896301

Fires pharmacy ..... 661912

Fordons pharmacy ..... 787336

Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055

Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoubi pharmacy ..... 644943

Shmoussi pharmacy ..... 637660

Nairouth pharmacy ..... 623672

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi ..... 248743

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein ..... 985000

Khalifah pharmacy ..... 985417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Roscoe Police 192, 621111, 637777

Pire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 894390

Public Security Department ..... 630211

Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage ..... 897467

Amman Municipality ..... 787111

Complaints ..... 623101

Telephone Information (direct assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 774111

Radio Jordan ..... 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:

Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann ..... 642816

Aklosh Maternity, J. Ann ..... 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmoussi ..... 664174

Shmoussi Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 843845

Al-Musabir Hospital ..... 667279

The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mohajir ..... 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah ..... 775112/6

Army, J. Ashrafiah ..... 891611/15

Queen Abla Hospital ..... 602240/90

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... 604844

Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)900660

Grout Catholic Hospital ..... (09)986732

Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital ..... (09)947100

Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)909590

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275553

Grout Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272775

Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital ..... (02)947100

Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**ARRIVALS**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

09:30 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:15 ..... London (RJ)

10:25 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

10:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:35 ..... London (RJ)

18:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

19:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

19:25 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:30 ..... Rome (RJ)

19:35 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

00:40 ..... Rome (RJ)

01:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)

01:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

11:10 ..... Damascus (AZ)

11:25 ..... Larnaca (CY)

11:30 ..... Yemen (IY)

11:30 ..... Doha (QY)

13:45 ..... Cairo (MS)

**DEPARTURES**

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)

09:15 ..... Rome (RJ)

11:35 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)

12:00 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

20:30 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

20:35 ..... Colombo (RJ)

20:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)

20:45 ..... Agaba, Cairo (RJ)

21:05 ..... Riyadh (RJ)

21:10 ..... New Delhi (RJ)

21:30 ..... Aden (RJ)

22:00 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

22:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

05:45 ..... Beirut, Paris (AF)

09:15 ..... Beirut (ME)

12:10 ..... Rome (AZ)

12:15 ..... Larnaca (CY)

12:30 ..... Larnaca (CY)

13:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)

14:00 ..... Cairo (MS)

14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

16:20 ..... Agaba, Sharqah (AH)

16:20 ..... Doha (QY)

00:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

**MARKET PRICES**

Up/Downer price in fils per kg

Apple ..... 700/4000

Banana ..... 600

Banana (Mukannaf) ..... 620

Cabbage ..... 120/60

Carrot ..... 350/250

Cauliflower ..... 220/180

Cucumbers (large) ..... 200/120

Cucumbers (small) ..... 370/280

Eggplant ..... 200/120

Fig ..... 450/300

Garlic ..... 900/200

Grapes ..... 280/200

Guava ..... 550/420

Lemon ..... 350/250

Marrow (large) ..... 420/120

Marrow (small) ..... 420/120

Mulakhiah ..... 120/60

Okra ..... 1200/800

Orange ..... 300/380

Onion (dry) ..... 270/180

Peas ..... 180/100

Sweet Melon ..... 240/140

Pepper (hot) ..... 300/200

Pepper (sweet) ..... 300/200

Pomegranate ..... 350/250

Posto ..... 380/200

14:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

16:20 ..... Agaba, Sharqah (AH)

16:20 ..... Doha (QY)

00:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

Watermelon ..... 60/30

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Jericho into the  
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he said.  
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meeting with Bajis Ismail,  
the executive director of the  
Higher Council for the Tour  
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authority.  
Dr. Adwan said his minist  
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authority to help it develop  
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Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr. Adwan Tuesday meets in his office with Bajis Ismail, the executive director of the Higher Council for the Tourism Industry in the Palestinian self-rule authority (Petra photo)

## Jordanian, Palestinian tourism officials meet to review industry cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Dr. Adwan Tuesday met with Bajis Ismail, the executive director of the Higher Council for the Tourism Industry in the self-rule authority, to discuss the scope of cooperation between the Palestinian self-rule authority and the already joined in a meeting with Bajis Ismail, the executive director of the Higher Council for the Tourism Industry in the self-rule authority.

Dr. Adwan said his ministry will provide every possible support to the Palestinian authority to help it develop tourist sites and facilities.

Mr. Ismail handed a message to Dr. Adwan from Elias Freij, the Minister of Tourism in the Palestinian in divisions that cause Lebanon's highest-national causes aged n-bested cardinal tarone community, ish reigned as patriarch during the first 19 uslams labelled agan a. About 100,000 pe with equal appec and Christians un Patriarch Nasrallah of the Maronite Ch al procession Mon at of Maronite pa dravi, a Maronite Muslim, and Par slim, attended the fu isters



ACROBATIC FUNDRAISING: Young Chinese acrobats Tuesday perform at the Sports Palace of Al Hussein Youth City to raise funds for the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) projects. The function was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein, deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, president of the (YWMA) (Petra photo)

## Amman Cultural Meeting opens

### No love lost between writers, critics

By Angham Tamimi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To discuss the literary criticism movement in Jordan, the Third Amman Cultural Meeting was inaugurated by Minister of Culture Juma'a Hammud Monday afternoon.

"We are concerned with presenting creativity and literature in Jordan and linking them with the creative movements in the rest of the Arab World," said Mr. Hammud in his opening speech. "Our other target is to strengthen the relationship between the Arab men of letters."

According to the minister, talking about criticism proves the existence of literature, which deserves to be evaluated. It is literature that creates critics, he said.

"The Arab World has been deprived of its unity, each country has its own flag, national anthem, army, television and radio stations and sports teams, but should each country have its own separate literature?" asked Mr. Hammud. He said he hoped that literature and criticism would develop one Arab identity.

The minister asked the participants to present genuine Arab criticism which helps bury corrupted literary products. He also invited the audience to unveil all related gaps and defects, and pinpoint obstacles in order to enrich and improve the criticism movement.

Mahsin Mousawi of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information talked on behalf of the Arab participants. He thanked the Jordanian government for exerting such a great effort to deepen the Arab cultural movement.

During the second session Jordanian critic Samir Qetami presented his research that dealt with the "Literary Criticism Movement until the 1950s".

In the eastern part of Jordan, and during the flourishing of the Emirate, said Mr. Qetami, several political and literary magazines and journals were established, such as Al Sharq Al Arahin 1923, Al Jazireh Al Arabia in 1927, Al Shari' in 1927, Sada Al Arab in 1927, Jordan in 1927, Al Anba' in 1927, Al Hikmah in 1932, Wafa' in 1938, Al Jazireh in 1939, Al Ra'id in 1945, Al Jihad in 1947, Al Ahd in 1947, Al Nisr in 1947, Al Haq in 1947, Al Hurrieh in 1948, and Al Yaqdha in 1948.

According to Mr. Qetami these publications played a major role in the political, cultural and intellectual life of those times. Their role was as important as other similar ones all over the Arab World, he said.

In addition, the poetry gatherings held during this period influenced the Jordanian literary movement, Mr. Qetami said.

Nevertheless, those three decades yielded no books, and for this reason, all the critics' viewpoints were published in journals and magazines, the most effective of which were Al Hikmah, Jazireh and Al Ra'id.

Although Mr. Qetami's paper takes us up to the 1950s, it makes no connection to today's criticism movement. The paper also fails to mention the effects of that earlier period on the present day literary movement.

Author Salem Nahhas seemed to believe that the writer-critic relationship is not usually one of accord. Mr. Nahhas complained of not being understood by Jordanian critics. He accused the critics of belittling his writing because of his political and cultural stands.

"Critics tried to tell me how to write, what they liked me to write, or what criticism schools considered valuable, but in fact, most of them avoided reading my works," said Mr. Nahhas.

"I consider myself the first writer who revived the Jordanian literary theatre by producing works such as 'Those Years' and 'Elections', but no critic bothered to lay a finger on them."

In his presentation, Mr. Nahhas was careful to note that he was not referring to all Jordanian critics, nor to some of them, rather he was attacking the general trend of criticism. Later former Minister of Culture Mahmoud Samra, the meeting's chairman, described Mr. Nahhas' presentation as honest and clear and reflecting the speaker himself.

Finally, poet Ibrahim Nasrallah criticised the criticism movement in Jordan. He believes that critics were automatically prepared to attack any artistic literary work even before laying an eye on it.

"Critics were guided by their moods not by their sense of objective judgement," said Mr. Nasrallah.

The Jordanian writers appeared unanimous in accusing the critics of failing to measure each author's work. They also agreed that general relations guided critics' judgement and a new objective is required.

## Visiting envoy reiterates Russia's support for Jordan's peace moves

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Russian envoy held talks here on Tuesday and reiterated his country's support for Jordan's moves in the Middle East peace process and called for strengthened trade and economic relations between his country and the Kingdom.

Viktor Posovayuk, a personal representative of President Boris Yeltsin, also described the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as an essential element of the peace process.

Mr. Posovayuk, who arrived here from Syria on the third leg of a Middle East visit, made the comments in a meeting with Acting Prime Minister Thaqan Hindawi, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

"Russia welcomes the Washington Declaration (between Jordan and Israel) as a positive step and considers it as a major move towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict," said Mr. Posovayuk, head of the Middle East and Africa Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Petra said Mr. Hindawi and Mr. Posovayuk reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and discussed the need for increased trade and economic relations between Jordan and Russia.

Mr. Hindawi and the Russian official, who was scheduled to leave for Israel early Thursday, also reviewed bilateral relations and stressed the need for increased trade and economic relations between Jordan and Russia.

Diplomatic sources said there were no outstanding issues between Amman and Moscow, and the problems related to a debt settling agreement the two sides signed in 1992 were resolved.

The 1992 accord had called for settling Jordan's debts to the ex-Soviet Union which Russia inherited partly in cash and partly in goods.

However, Russia is keen to increase its exports to Jordan.

After two years of mostly baphazard trade — when Russian entrepreneurs used to dump Russian products in the international market at cutthroat prices — the government of President Yeltsin is keen to launch organised trade with all countries.

Such issues were not expected to have been discussed in detail during Mr. Posovayuk's visit here since the official is more involved with political issues than economy and trade, diplomats noted.

Mr. Posovayuk, whose country co-sponsors the Arab-Israeli peace process with the United States, visited Lebanon and Syria before arriving here.

One of the key themes of his talks in Beirut and Damascus was a reaffirmation of the Russian role in the peace process, which is effectively guided by the United States. Another was a Russian effort to convince Lebanon and Syria to drop their boycott of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Also expected to have been discussed during his talks in Damascus was Syria's military debt, worth \$10 billion, to Russia. Reports said Moscow and Damascus were looking at a formula to settle the debt and renew Russian military cooperation with Syria.



Acting Prime Minister Thaqan Hindawi Tuesday meets with special Russian envoy Viktor Posovayuk (second from right). The meeting was attended by Russian Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Sultunov and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan (Petra photo)

## Minister, Indian envoy review peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State Talal Al Hassan Tuesday reviewed the latest developments of the Middle East peace process with visiting Indian Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan.

Mr. Hassan voiced Jordan's concern for establishing a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region, saying that progress on the Jordanian-Israeli tracks will give a boost to the negotiations on the other tracks.

The minister stressed that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty until progress is achieved on the other tracks and until all details and issues of interest to all parties involved are agreed upon.

Mr. Hassan praised India's supportive stand towards Arab causes and lauded the unique Jordanian-Indian relations in all fields.

Mr. Srinivasan praised His Majesty King Hussein's wisdom and courage, saying that India supports the signing of the Washington Declaration.

He described the declaration as the right step on the path of achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

The Indian official praised bilateral relations between his country and Jordan, saying that India is one of the largest importers of Jordanian phosphates and fertilisers.

Mr. Srinivasan presented Mr. Hassan with an invitation from his Indian counterpart to visit India.

Also Tuesday Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Haddid reviewed with the Indian official bilateral relations and the latest developments in the peace process.

The two meetings were attended by Indian Ambassador to Jordan Arun Kumar Bodhiraja.

Later Tuesday Mr. Srinivasan left Jordan through the Ramtha border post.

In a departure statement, the Indian envoy described his talks with Jordanian officials as fruit and constructive.



Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Haddid (second from right) Tuesday reviews bilateral relations with Indian Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan (second from left). Also attending the meeting was Indian Ambassador to Jordan Arun Kumar Bodhiraja (Petra photo)

## University official wins first Boutros Ghali scholarship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Jordan Mohammad Maqusi has recently been selected as a winner of the first U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali Scholarship, according to a university statement Tuesday.

Dr. Maqusi was notified of his award in a letter from the chairman of the Foundation for the Support of the United Nations.

The foundation, which has headquarters in New York and Tokyo, was established in 1988 for the support of U.N. programmes and activities supporting community involvement and promotion of cultural projects.

In December 1993, the foundation established the Boutros Ghali Scholarship aimed at encouraging young world leadership for further involvement in U.N. activities and international cultural contacts.

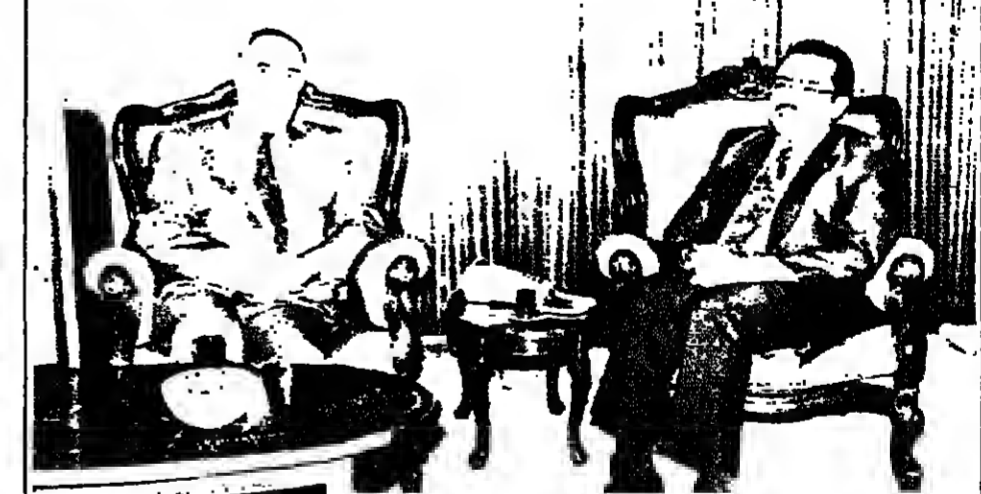
The foundation has selected five winners of the scholarship, one from each continent. Dr. Maqusi, who holds a Ph.D. in electrical communications from New Mexico State University in the U.S., was selected as the first winner from the Arab countries and Asia.

Awards will be presented in special ceremonies to be held in Tokyo in early September.

The guest of honour at the ceremonies will be the U.N. Secretary General.



Mohammad Maqusi



FAREWELLS: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Tuesday receives Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Ibrahim on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty (Petra photo)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- PLAY**
- Children's play entitled "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre on 18:00.
- ART FESTIVAL**
- Festival of artistic works (including songs, plays, and an exhibition of various commodities) at the open theatre, the Royal Cultural Centre (5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.).
- EXHIBITIONS**
- Clothing and fashion industry exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).
  - Exhibition of abstract art by Ghaleb Nahl and Mohammad Yass at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).
  - Children's school needs exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition, Airport Road (12:00 noon-11:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).
  - Painting on copper exhibition by Mohammad Jundi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
  - Exhibition of painting by several Jordanian artists entitled "The Fact Between Paintings and Viewers As Viewed By Artists" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- King congratulates Ukraine**
- AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Ukraine's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Kravchuk continued good health and happiness and the Ukraine people further progress and prosperity.
- Majali receives messages of appreciation**
- AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday received three messages from the foreign ministers of Mexico, Norway and Romania expressing appreciation of Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process. They expressed joy over the Jordanian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington last month ending the state of war between the two countries. They said the Washington Declaration constitutes a basic step on the way to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East and stressed their countries' support for the peace process.
- Meeting focuses on factory locations**
- AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan Tuesday chaired a meeting of the factories committee charged with studying applications to establish factories and to ensure their appropriate location. Mr. Kreishan stressed the need for the committee to conduct comprehensive studies on the factories' locations, taking into consideration preserving the environment, agricultural lands and underground water. The committee was set up by the higher organisational council because of the lack of comprehensive organisation plans for the Kingdom's regions defining the uses of lands. The committee includes representatives of the ministries of Water and Irrigation, Health, Interior and Agriculture, as well as Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, in addition to the departments of Land and Survey and Civil Defence.
- Arabian horse club elects panel**
- AMMAN (Petra) — The Constituent Assembly of the Arabian Horse Club Monday elected a new administrative committee, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein. The new committee includes Mohammad Anwar Saleh, who was elected vice chairman, Saleh Hamad, Issa Rimoni, Awar Al Shalan, Munayyad Dabbas, and Mohammad Fahmi Omari.





## Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.  
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4  
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
Facsimile: 696183

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### Politics by proxy

THE JUST-ended meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria and Iran in Damascus took a brave decision to renew the agreement on the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity by rejecting "certain extra-regional efforts" aiming to strengthen and consolidate the Kurdish position in northern Iraq. But by passing such a resolution, the neighbours of Iraq are merely expressing concern about their own Kurdish populations and in turn their own territorial integrity in the face of growing international support for certain Kurdish rights in the region.

The recent Paris meeting held by rival Kurdish groups and representatives in Britain, France and the U.S. had a smell of attempted interference in the Kurdish question which Ankara, Tehran and Damascus saw as a prelude to the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq. The problem with the decision taken by Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and their Syrian counterpart Farouk Sharaa rests in the fact that it was adopted without Baghdad being present at the meeting. If there is a genuine concern about Iraq's territorial integrity, Iraqi authorities should have been the first to be present at the Damascus gathering. While professing rejection of all forms of interferences in Iraqi domestic affairs, the neighbours of that Arab state sought to do exactly the contrary by bypassing the very country that they wished to save from partition by the major powers. We think Iraq can no longer remain isolated from regional or extra-regional decision-taking processes. Ankara, Tehran and Damascus should have invited the government of Iraq to take its proper place at such an important meeting. It would not have been such a bad idea also if the PUK and KDP Kurdish factions in northern Iraq were also included in meetings which could determine their future. After all we are at the end of the 20th century and the policies of the past can no longer be viable.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday said that the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings which concluded in Amman Monday agreed on a mechanism to discuss issues of common interest that have become urgent for two reasons. The paper said in its editorial that the urgency of these issues resulted from the tangible unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples which makes it difficult for any political leadership to ignore or dismantle. The second reason, said the paper, is due to the acceleration of the peace process and the important issues the two sides have to discuss in the process and to coordinate their stands on. The two sides have shown keenness to activate a joint mechanism to discuss developments in the peace process and showed a high level of responsibility when they stressed the need to coordinate their coverage of the process so as not to allow others to undermine bilateral relations, said the paper. It noted that that was the reason why the concluding statement of the meetings did not mention topics that the two sides differ over. The Israeli media, meanwhile, was keenly interested in highlighting Jordanian-Palestinian differences in an attempt to distract attention from the main issue in the region, which is ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab lands, namely the Jordanian and Palestinian lands, the paper said. It added that Israeli manoeuvres to aggravate Arab differences and plant secession among them was not even stopped by the peace process which gave Israel more "fuel and flammable material to add to the fire of secession it was trying to plant." Al Ra'i said that these manoeuvres only work on those who do not realise the deep feelings of pan-Arab belonging to both Jordan and Palestine. It said the main job of Jordan and Palestine will always remain ending the Israeli occupation.

I'M SICK OF ALL THIS CRITICISM!  
MY ADMINISTRATION HAS PUT  
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO WORK!...



—GRANTED MOST OF THEM ARE  
SPECIAL PROSECUTORS!



Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

### Clinton's long, hot summer

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is in the midst of a long and hot crisis-filled summer. He is facing a wide range of challenges, the most important of which threaten his chances for success on some of the most key domestic issues on which he based his presidency: health care, crime and welfare reform.

Throughout the summer, public approval of the president's performance has followed a downward trend, dropping more than 15 points. It is telling that even in an area where Mr. Clinton has had success, the economy, he is receiving little public recognition for his efforts.

The White House continually reminds the press and the public that in less than two years, Mr. Clinton has passed a major deficit reduction package, created significant new foreign trade opportunities for U.S. businesses, restored investor confidence in the economy, and overseen an economic resurgence which has created 4,000,000 new jobs, sustained reasonable economic growth while keeping inflation down. Yet despite these achievements, recent polls show that most Americans express disapproval of the president's handling of the economy, and a plurality even feel that Republicans would do a better job of handling the economy than the president's Democratic Party.

And even lower than the public's approval of Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, foreign affairs, health care and crime is their overall approval of the president. The most recent CNN/USA Today polls shows Mr. Clinton's overall approval rating at a low 39 per cent.

Critics correctly point out the president's contribution to his decline in the polls: a succession of public scandals, disarray at the White House, and the administration's penchant for "waffling" on issues. But the single most important reason behind the president's slide in the polls is a growing cynicism about all government leaders — whether Democrat or Republican — and government in general.

While President Clinton has recently been receiving more favourable press coverage, the constant criticism he has endured during the past two years has taken its toll. So has the incessant partisan sniping that has become the norm in political discourse in Washington. An equally damaging but less noted phenomenon undermining the president is the tone of ridicule which political commentators, newscasters and popular comedians use when discussing our political leaders.

This very same pattern of criticism, partisan sniping and ridicule that weakened George Bush's presidency, Mr. Clinton is the new victim and every fault of his, whether or not it is related to his performance in office, is fair game; although he wouldn't be exempt even if he were perfect.

The end result of this type of discourse is deep public cynicism which suggests that the U.S. is on a downward slide, that little can be done to correct "the mess in Washington," and that "those politicians in Washington" are not capable of doing the job in any case. Ironically, the need to restore hope to a cynical electorate was one of the major themes of Mr. Clinton's campaign. So it is especially hurtful for the president to see his leadership paralysed by his inability to combat public negativity.

This is more than a morale problem for the White House, however; it is a practical political problem as well. As public cynicism and disrespect for government grows, so does Mr. Clinton's ability to lead and influence legislators to support his programmes.

The president has become so politically weak that his very

identification with his own programmes has become a liability. For example, recent polls show that a clear majority of Americans support the type of health care reform that the president has called for. The public overwhelmingly believes that there should be universal health care coverage for all Americans and that employers should pay to cover their employees — two central features of the president's programme. But when asked if they support the Clinton health care plan, a majority says "no."

The president's political weakness not only poses problems for more than just his legislative agenda, but it has political ramifications as well. Several Democratic candidates to this year's Congressional elections have already advised the White House to "stay away" from their campaigns. This prompted one Democratic Party official to state: "We're aware that it is not in the best interests of some of our candidates to associate with us (the Clinton administration) and we understand this... if you want us to stay away, we'll stay away."

While these comments were, of course, quickly repudiated by the White House, they did reflect a widespread attitude among Democratic leaders and candidates who have come to fear that too close an identification with President Clinton will hurt their electoral chances in November.

The Republicans' strategy, as indicated by their behaviour during the recent voting on the crime bill and the debate over health care in the Senate, is clear: Obstruct the president's efforts to pass any legislation this fall.

The Republicans assume that if they can deny the president any legislative victories, they will even further erode his leadership, which they hope will improve their chances of winning control of Congress in the 1994 elections. In this effort they used stalling tactics and threats against any members of their party who break ranks to support the president.

But the Republicans' success in temporarily derailing the president's crime bill last week shocked the White House into action. The president has taken some steps to shore up his position, especially in preparation for this fall's Congressional elections. In his appeal to Democrats to support his position on the legislation, the president correctly observed that he needed Democratic votes "to save my presidency." Implicit in this appeal was a recognition that if the president loses the vote on the crime bill and is further weakened, the Democrats' chances to win their elections this fall will decrease.

In further effort to restore confidence, the president is engaged in a restructuring of the White House administration team. In this effort he has called on three respected Democratic party leaders: Leon Panetta (who moved from the position of director of the office of management and budget to become White House chief of staff), Tony Coelho (a former House majority whip who was assigned to the Democratic National Committee to assist in planning strategy for the 1994 elections), and Judge Abner Mikva (who will take over as White House Legal Counsel).

It is not clear how immediately these changes in operations will begin to have an effect on White House performance. Nor is it clear that they will succeed soon enough to secure passage of the crime bill and health care reform before the November elections.

What is clear is that the president is emerging from his long, hot summer with a "wake-up call" and a determination to fight to save his embattled presidency.

### India, U.S. burying long-time antagonisms

By Nelson Graves  
Reuters

NEW DELHI — When the United States ordered a quarter of a million Indian troops to be taken off shore shelves this month on the grounds that they could catch fire, American diplomats expected a strong reaction in New Delhi.

But an unruffled Indian government refused to shout foul. Instead it told exporters to win back the market by offering scientific proof the skirts were not excessively flammable.

"We had expected the usual grumblings about unfair trade barriers," a U.S. diplomat said. "But they didn't really come."

Forty-seven years after India won independence, New Delhi and Washington are burying deep-seated antagonisms and forging a new relationship.

New Delhi's level-headed reflex in the skirts episode demonstrated the pragmatism that now surrounds Indo-U.S. relations, diplomats and foreign policy analysts say.

The mistrust, prejudices and ideological labels that kept Washington and New Delhi at arm's length throughout the cold war are giving way to a cautious willingness to strengthen ties.

"There is a warming of the relationship," said B.G. Verghese of the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

The shift is closely related to the changed international landscape. During the cold war Washington considered India to be Moscow's client state. But that thorn has been removed with the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Now that Soviet troops are out of Afghanistan and tensions have cooled in the Gulf, India's Western neighbour, Pakistan, no longer has strategic primacy for Washington, which for many years courted Islamabad with sophisticated weaponry.

Still, until recently Washington toed a hard line. "Strategic issues in 1992-93 were a huge strain on Indo-U.S. relations," said Bhabani Sen Gupta, executive director of the Centre for Research on International Change.

"There was a very strong U.S. emphasis on human rights, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and missiles."

Then India opened up the disputed Kashmir region to foreigners and diplomats, set up a national human rights commission and, in early 1993, launched bilateral talks with Pakistan. Kashmir, however, still

remains largely closed to international human rights groups.

Mr. Gupta said India appears to have assured Washington that it is in no rush to develop its missile-launching capability, and the emphasis in non-proliferation circles has shifted to seeking a nuclear-free, as opposed to a nuclear-free, world.

As Islamic fundamentalism makes inroads in Algeria, Malaysia and Turkey, Washington looks to India — with the world's second largest Muslim population behind Indonesia — as a ballast.

But the deciding factor, according to Mr. Gupta, was India's far-reaching economic reform programme, launched in 1991, which has stoked U.S. hopes of cashing in on business opportunities.

India's economic potential looms even larger as some other Asian markets become saturated. India is also a hedge against the possibility of political unrest in China, Mr. Verghese said.

"India needs U.S. technology and the U.S. is interested in the Indian market and its possible stabilising role," he said.

The recent appointment of U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner to a post that had long remained vacant soothed New Delhi's pride.

Mr. Wisner quickly won plaudits from New Delhi when he said there was little hope Washington would deliver 38 F-16 warplanes that Pakistan had ordered because of opposition in Congress.

The Indian government then extended a valuable payment guarantee to U.S. giant Enron Corp, which is building a \$3 billion gas power plant in western India.

Last week Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao announced a new plan to pay Indian parents to pull up to two million children out of hazardous jobs and put them in school.

Charity groups said it was a clear response to a U.S.-led campaign to curb child labour in developing countries.

A U.S. diplomat said Washington had decided to tone down its criticism of India's human rights record and quietly prod India and Pakistan to settle their raging dispute over Kashmir.

A parade of U.S. officials including Defence Secretary William Perry are expected in India in early 1995.

"Instead of flying at each other's throats, India and the U.S. are willing to sit down and talk things out," Mr. Verghese said. "They can agree to disagree without being disagreeable."

## French leave Rwanda — could they have done more?

By John Follain  
Reuters

PARIS — As the last French soldiers in Rwanda packed their bags on Sunday, Paris defiantly applauded their two-month humanitarian mission in the face of critics who had questioned its motives.

French officials say they are satisfied with the achievements of Operation Turquoise and if the military mission did not stabilise the region that had not been its aim.

No French official is ready to rule out a new catastrophe — a new exodus of refugees or more inter-tribal violence.

A front-page cartoon in Le Monde summed up France's failure to ensure violence does not flare up again as the new government of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) gradually takes control.

An unarmed French soldier boarding a jet turns to wag a finger at an RPF colleague, who has a gun on his shoulder. "We're agreed — oo more genocide," the Frenchman admonishes.

With its U.N. mandate expiring on Sunday, Paris says it has pulled off a delicate operation and silenced critics at home and abroad who two months ago cast doubt on its motives.

The 2,500 French-led soldiers saved the lives of thousands, from both the Hutu and Tutsi tribes, thanks to a safe zone in southwest Rwanda and helped mobilise states which had done nothing as pro-Hutu militias unleashed a genocide of Tutsis.

In neighbouring Zaire, the French won praise for the often grisly tasks they carried out — piling the dead into mass graves, caring for refugees and supplying food and water.

When France went in, critics said Paris was acting with neo-imperialist motives to shield an ally, the discredited Hutu-led government of Rwanda. Today, some of those critics want French soldiers to remain.

"Many countries are asking us to stay, but it would be interesting to make a list to see how many of those refused to join us when we went in," said a senior military official, still bristling at the lack of support France had drawn.

"If there are so many appeals for us to stay, it's because our humanitarian mission went well," he said. But the presence of the French troops still risks being remembered as only a brief intermission in a series of woes to hit the African continent.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has acknow-

ledged that "Turquoise has not stabilised the region". He told reporters on Friday, however, that this had not been the operation's aim.

The relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) said the soldiers were leaving "chaos" behind them. Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) said rearmament and aggressive pro-Hutu forces were still active.

It appealed to the U.N. force in Rwanda to widen its mandate so it could expel militiamen from the zone, establish a police force and arrest the authors of the genocide.

The seeds of a new outbreak of violence are buried in the camps in the form of pro-Hutu militiamen bidden among refugees.

The watchdog human rights Watch/Africa criticised France — one of the first countries to denounce "genocide" — for failing to detain those who carried out the killings.

Senior figures behind the genocide, which claimed some 500,000 lives, are reported to have obtained refuge in Zaire from where they continue to fan ethnic hatred.

Several Hutu government leaders, including ex-prime minister Jean Kambanda, fled via the French-controlled safe zone.

"We told the U.N. all we know about the violence," the military source said. "We arrested people caught red-handed committing offences, but it definitely wasn't up to us to hunt for murderers and arrest them."

According to Paris, the ball is now in the court of the new Kigali government, which must demonstrate it can reassure its people and avert another refugee exodus.

The enduring hostility of the new Kigali rulers, with their repeated calls for French soldiers to pull out, played into the hands of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur who was keen for the troops to pull out on time.

The U.N. force inherits a challenging task. French officials say there are 2.5 million residents and refugees in the "safe zone" against 1.9 million in the rest of Rwanda.

In the strategic power game, Operation Turquoise has shown France stands almost alone in the West as a country with the means and the will to intervene militarily in Africa.

Beyond the lives they undoubtedly saved, the French troops will have served to flesh out Mr. Balladur's ambition, which he repeated this week, for France not to be seen only as a "medium-sized power."

### LETTER

#### A congenial forum?

To the Editor:

THE EXCELLENT idea of the "science week" held earlier this month in Amman was marred by a point of protocol. Large boards were placed in the auditorium marked "their excellencies the ministers" and "distinguished personalities of the realm." Further directive was obviously not necessary to indicate seating intended for those who did not belong into the above categories.

Islamic teaching and Arabic tradition are profuse with statements against any form of class distinction or privilege. "The public's master is their servant" is one of the more celebrated statements. "Civil servant" and not "civil master" is the usual designation of government officials in more sophisticated set-ups. But it seems that the habits surviving society from those teachings and traditions.

A whole is made up of component parts and the atmosphere in which scientific research is debated is certainly one of the important components. The above procedure contributes to a pompous and unpleasant atmosphere.

Some of the readers of this letter will have experienced the environment in which conferences of similar nature are held in lands much more advanced in the field. It is usually free seating with highly distinguished researchers sitting next to students in all manner of casual dress including jeans and shorts! In fact that attitude contributes to a great atmosphere of learning as the implicit message is that the focus is on the quality of subject matter and nothing else.

Honour is then bestowed on those whose work has the highest quality and not through overbearing decree.

Dr. Omar Manna  
Amman.

## Jordan made specific proposals

(Continued from page 1)

see their meetings with each other as one aimed at addressing the mapping of a future that will reflect on the two sides equally.

"We told them we are not negotiating with them, we are only trying to do the things that have to be done," one official said.

But the more important result of the meetings, held after months of uneasy relations, was in laying the grounds and hopefully allaying the fears that have so far hindered Palestinian coordination with Jordan.

The fact that the members of the cabinet-level Palestinian delegation "were more politicians than economists" is because they appeared to be "assessing the political atmosphere ahead of a higher meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and President Yasser Arafat," one Jordanian official said.

The Palestinian delegation apparently had told the Jordanian side that they wanted final agreements to

be signed by Mr. Arafat himself. Because of this message, Jordanian officials believe a summit between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders will only come after the joint committee paves the road for a successful visit, probably after the next meeting in September.

The Jordanian side believes that it might have been successful at laying to rest what they say are "unsubstantiated fears" towards Jordanian intentions whether over the issue of Jerusalem or on trade and banks.

"The overall feeling we got, as Jordanian delegates to this meeting, is that there is a lot Jordan can do to facilitate the task of the Palestinian self-rule authority," the senior official said.

"Also we feel that any difficulties they may have in handling their affairs, whether internally or with international donors, are problems that affect us as well and with which we have had experience, as a state, which we could impart on them," he said.

## Negotiations have ups downs

(Continued from page 1)

"Furthermore, we should not be discussing those issues in the street. We should sit together and talk about them and try to find solutions to differences," he said.

He said these differences in views "do not mean that there is a conflict" with the Palestinians, and affirmed that every point of differences was discussed at the meetings which concluded Monday in Amman.

Dr. Majali, who was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Thouran Al Hindawi, several Cabinet members, Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Fayez Tarawneh and several officials, will deliver several lectures on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in it.

He said that it was imperative to preserve and highlight Jordan's good image in Arab and international intellectual arenas.

The premier will deliver lectures at the Rand Foundation and at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

The premier, in his comments to Petra, described Jordanian-American relations as good, pointing to Washington's writing off of part of Jordan's debts and asking their countries to reduce these debts.

## Activists step up campaign

(Continued from page 1)

pan-Arab mobilisation to achieve the goals of the struggle and national liberation stage; and articles 20-26 which consider the Balfour Declaration and the (British) mandate pact null and consider Zionism as an imperial political, racist, expansionist movement.

"Therefore we have to affirm that if Mr. Yasser Arafat succeeds in illegally introducing amendments that he has committed himself to, only few procedural articles will remain out of the charter's 33 articles."

It said Mr. Arafat had no authority to represent the Palestinian people or act on behalf of the PLO or any PLO institutions. The statement noted that Mr. Arafat has not been able to convene a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee itself because of lack of quorum.

Among the signatories were:

— Ibrahim Baker, lawyer and former member of the PNC and deputy chairman of the Executive Committee;

— Ahmad Sedki Al Dajani, PNC member and former member of the Executive Committee;

— Edward Said, professor at Columbia University;

— Assad Bayyoud Al Tamimi, PNC member;

— Asma Khader, lawyer;

— Amin Qubba'a, researcher;

— Bassam Al Shakaa, elected mayor of Nabulus;

— Bahjat Abu Gharbiya, PNC member and former executive committee member;

— Tayseer Khaled, PNC and Executive Committee member;

— Jamil Maraqa, PNC member;

— Jawad Younis, lawyer;

— George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP;

— Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team in Madrid and former deputy speaker of the PNC;

— Khaled Al Fahoum, former PNC speaker;

— Riyad Al Maliki, professor at Bir Zeit University;

— Riyad Mansour, deputy ambassador to the U.N.;

— Saji Salameh, PNC member;

— Samiha Khalil, chairwoman of the In'ash Al Usra Society;

— Shafiq Al Hout, PNC and Executive Committee member;

— Salah Salah, PNC member and former member of the Executive Committee;

— Abbas Zaki, member of the PNC and the Fateh Central Committee;

— Abdul Jabbar Abu Gharbiyah, member of the administrative committee of the Arab Human Rights Organisation;

— Abdul Samih, PNC member;

— Abdul Rahim Mulaawih, man.



Sifting through "second hand" clothing at a downtown Amman clothes stall (File photo)

By Adrian D'Ambra

AROUND THE suburbs of Australian cities, near railway stations and beside supermarket car parks, stand the large metal collection bins of the Salvation Army and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. They are like giant posting boxes with shutters big enough for people to push their bags of unwanted clothing through.

The brotherhood bins — a generic name covering all agencies — achieved a sad infamy some years ago when it was realised that they were being used by homeless street kids as a place to crash for the night.

These were just some of the people the welfare agencies were wanting to help, but not in this way. The full horror of this tragic irony was brought to public attention with the death by incineration of a runaway child in one of the bins.

However, the unfortunate history of the used clothing collection receptacles did not pass into the province of urban mythology and they are still being used today. Australians are remarkably consumeristic — we don't save, we spend — but alongside this conspicuous consumption, we are also charitable. People think nothing of bundling up their unwanted family clothing, their no longer fashionable or out of season gear, and depositing it in one of the collection bins. The era of the hand-me-downs has passed but we have replaced it with something we consider to be equally practical and helpful.

I first began to wonder what happens to all the clothing donated to the welfare agencies since I've been living in a developing country where imported clothing is so expensive I refuse to buy it and the locally made stuff is either badly made or uninspiring.

As an employed expatriate I can, of course, replenish supplies during annual leave. However, apart from underwear and socks, everything I've bought in Jordan has been second hand. For many local people on lower to middle class incomes the well stocked shops of imported second hand clothing are their only

means of keeping themselves and their families reasonably dressed. Before I go any further, I should point out something. Like most Australians I have a fairly naive view of what happens to the clothes donated to the welfare agencies. I've always assumed that they are distributed amongst needy people, either at home or abroad.

Wrong. Your clothes are bundled and strapped up into large bails which are then sold to a wholesale dealer at a fixed minimum price per bail.

Apart from the few garments that trickle into the agencies' opportunity shops, that minimum bulk price is the only benefit they and their clients get from collecting the clothes.

What does the wholesaler do? He employs several sorters at his warehouse.

## Bring back 'the hand-me-downs'

They select the best quality, top table items which are then bought in bulk by the second hand boutiques around town which sell them singly, off the rack to you. Don't be surprised if you see the clothes and accessories you thought were going to be distributed amongst the needy for sale at a so-called pre-loved or recycled clothing store.

The wholesaler then cleans and bundles the remaining clothes into bails again, selling them to distributors at approximately a one hundred percent mark up on the original bail price. From my own experience in Jordan and Syria, I can assure you that many of the clothes following a similar route through European countries do end up in the Third World.

They are not distributed amongst the needy there either. They are sold by

retailers. I know because I'm wearing some of them.

One of the fastest growing enterprises in downtown Amman is the retailing of imported second hand clothing which — and I've only just recently realised this — was originally donated to charity. There are certain areas — French Loaf and Italian Hospital Streets are the largest and busiest — where every shop for block after block has been given over to this curious enterprise.

Some shops specialise in shoes hanging by the hundreds of pairs from the ceiling, others in children's, women's or men's clothing. Other shops specialise in winter weights and overcoats — people who have never lived in the Middle East have no idea how cold it gets in winter.

In the back rooms you can often see the bails, about a metre-and-a-half high, wide and deep. There will also be a non-stop ironing board and tailor's stool. Everything is pressed and repaired on the premises and the only way to buy is

to bargain. Once again, the clothes have been bought in bulk but are sold individually, so the mark up cannot be estimated.

On Friday, the Muslim day of rest, the shops are closed but the streets are inundated with trestle tables and makeshift stalls selling the same goods. Judging by the labels I've seen and bought, most of the goods coming into Jordan were probably once collected by welfare agencies in Germany and Scandinavia.

Despite the extraordinary number of shops involved in the trade, there are probably only a handful of operators bringing in and distributing the goods. The profits these local entrepreneurs are making from the sale of clothes originally donated to charity must be very high indeed.

The writer is an Australian freelance journalist and teacher currently living in Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Nigeria's crisis pits businessmen against generals

By James Jukwey

Reuter

LAGOS — Nigeria's crisis pitting a southern multi-millionaire businessman against entrenched northern generals threatens to ignite a wider ethnic conflict.

Mr. Abiola, 56, has transformed his image from that of a lackey of Western imperialism to a champion of democracy.

The annulment of the June 12, 1993, election made him a cause celebre of a pro-democracy movement opposed to the army's stop-start and manipulated return to a civil rule programme.

Mr. Abiola, an accountant who owns a domestic airline and newspaper group, rose from extremely poor beginnings to become a philanthropic patron of communities and individuals throughout Africa and its diaspora, earning widespread popularity.

Aides say his panacea for Nigeria's ailing economy is the introduction of Singapore-style paternalistic authoritarianism with an emphasis on big business.

Mr. Abiola's main constituency is the Yoruba-speaking southwest of Nigeria whose people are anxious to see northern political dominance ended.

Nigeria has been governed by soldiers for 24 out of its 34 years of independence.

Despite pressure from pro-democracy groups and Mr. Abiola's supporters for an immediate end to military rule, Gen. Abacha has said democracy will be restored only through the constitutional conference he in-

augurated in June.

A wealthy officer with a keen business mind, Gen. Abacha is a short dapper man in dark glasses. He says little in public and sometimes appears aloof.

Military sources say Gen. Abacha has been involved in every successful coup since 1975, when then head of state Gen. Yakubu Gowon was overthrown.

Both Mr. Abiola and Gen. Abacha are Muslims but the infantry general was born in the northern state of Kano. He fought in Nigeria's 1967-70 civil war when the southeast region of Biafra fought for secession. An estimated one million people died of war and famine.

Gen. Abacha attended the former Mons Officer Cadet College in England in 1964 and rose swiftly through the ranks to colonel in 1975. He was promoted to brigadier in 1980.

Up to 100 people have been killed in riots since Mr. Abiola was arrested in June after proclaiming himself president on the anniversary of the annulled election.

Most of the violence was in the southwest, Mr. Abiola's stronghold which includes the commercial capital Lagos but not the political capital, which army rulers had moved to in the inland city of Abuja.

Many of the sacked oil union leaders come from the south where Nigeria's oil is pumped. But because northerners dominate government much of the proceeds is syphoned off for projects in other areas, leaving the oil-producing south neglected.

By Jim Wolf

Reuter

WASHINGTON — By the end of his long and bloody career, Carlos had, like so many of his victims, become expendable.

Experts inside and outside the U.S. government said the notorious guerrilla captured in Sudan and extradited to France Monday was doomed by post-cold war trends that brought an end to his sponsorship by such pariah states as Iran and Libya that the United States claims support terrorism.

They said Carlos, who eluded security forces for 20 years, outlived his usefulness to East European and Middle Eastern intelligence services that allegedly sheltered him during the cold war.

As a result, he lost the organisation and safe haven network that helped him carry out spectacular attacks beginning in the mid-1970s, including the 1975 kidnapping of 11 oil ministers attending an OPEC meeting in Vienna.

"He's someone from a bygone era. He's an historical curiosity," said Vincent Cannistraro, head of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) counterterrorism operations between 1988 and 1990.

Mr. Cannistraro said Syria expelled Carlos months ago because of pressure from France, where a court sentenced him in his absence to life imprisonment for killing two French counterespies in 1975.

"There was no reason for the Sudanese not to

cooperate. And there was every reason for them to cooperate, to show they were being helpful in the fight against terrorism," Mr. Cannistraro said in a telephone interview. "Carlos had become a throw-away."

Larry Johnson, a former State Department official who now runs an international security consulting firm, said: "The bottom line is, his state sponsorship ran out."

A U.S. intelligence official said the CIA had tracked Carlos across four continents for two decades.

"The CIA's cooperation with governments in Middle East and elsewhere helped close the noose, steadily denying Carlos safe havens," he said. "The CIA's tracking his movements was a key contribution to the French success in Sudan."

Yossef Bodansky, director of the House of Representatives Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, said he doubted Carlos's capture spelled an end to Sudan's alleged support of militant groups seeking to abort the Arab-Israeli peace process and oust secular governments in Algeria and Egypt.

Kenneth Katzman, an expert on militant Islam at the congressional research service, said Carlos had become "expendable," giving Sudan an easy way "to deflect attention from its involvement with Islamic militants."

Last August, the U.S. State Department added Sudan to the official U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, joining Iran, Iraq,

Libya, Syria, North Korea and Cuba. As an officially listed terrorist pariah state, Sudan has been barred from trading with the United States or getting aid.

According to an annual State Department report titled "Patterns of Global Terrorism," Sudan has been providing sanctuary to such radical groups as Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

"Sudan served as a convenient transit point, meeting site and safe haven for Iranian-backed extremist groups," the August 1993 report claimed. It said that five of the 15 suspects arrested last year after the Feb. 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre were Sudanese citizens.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Sudan's handover of Carlos was welcome but "in and of itself is not sufficient action to cause us to rescind their listing."

In Khartoum, Sudanese Interior Minister Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammed Khart said Carlos entered the country using a false passport and was seized by security agents at a rented house as he plotted attacks against foreign interests in Sudan. He was extradited to France Monday.

The Venezuelan-born Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was a key figure in guerrilla movements from Western Europe to the Middle East to Japan. Mr. Pasqua said he had been responsible for the deaths of 83 people worldwide over the past 20 years, including at least 15 French nationals.

## U.N. chief sees global 'social crisis', cites poverty, unemployment and upheaval

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Monday said the world faces a global "social crisis", caused by poverty, unemployment, upheaval and social disintegration.

He called on the international community to make a commitment to social development, cutting military budgets first, not social and environmental spending.

The U.N. chief called on nations attending the world summit for social development next March in Copenhagen, Denmark, to pledge to reduce by half or more the proportion of people living in absolute poverty, to create jobs and to reduce disparities among income groups, sexes, ethnic groups, regions and nations.

latest of a series of ambitious international conferences: The children's summit several years ago, the earth summit in 1992, the international conference on population and development to be held next month in Cairo, Egypt and the fourth world conference on women to be held in September 1994 in Beijing.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali addressed the opening of the summit's second preparatory conference at U.N. headquarters. The conference, ending Sept. 2, will formulate a declaration and plan of action to be adopted in Copenhagen. Another preparatory meeting will be held in January to complete the texts to be adopted by heads of state at the summit.

"The global social crisis threatens many states as much as any foreign army,"

Dr. Boutros-Ghali told representatives of the 184 U.N. members as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and others attending.

For 50 years, he said, the United Nations has avoided another world war, "but without investment in social development, the foundations of peace will not be secured."

"It is time to balance the old commitment to territorial security with a new commitment to human security: To shift from providing security through arms to ensuring security through development," he emphasized.

Fresh efforts are required to revive development in the least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Boutros-Ghali said.

In Africa, he said, major domestic reforms are needed. He called on the international community to enter into development compacts with individual countries in Africa and elsewhere.

The summit, he said, "presents a major opportunity to close the traditional North-South divide and to open a new chapter in international development cooperation for the post-cold war era."

Among many proposals, the draft summit document calls for each nation to set a timetable for eliminating extreme poverty, which afflicts 1.3 billion people worldwide.

Issues of resources and technology sharing are likely to divide developed and less developed nations, as they do in many international forums.

Inadequate financing for

U.N. development and other agencies also is likely to be discussed. International funding for the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies are declining while funding for U.N. peacekeeping missions is on the rise.

"If that trend continues, the U.N. will become irrelevant in development," conference chairman Juan Somavia, the ambassador of Chile, told a news conference. But he also said that the United Nations and its agencies must become more efficient and effective.

He said that one of the many signs of the social crisis is the death every day of 35,000 children worldwide and said most of the deaths could be prevented with better social services.

## British recovery gathering pace

LONDON (R) — Britain's economic recovery is gathering pace and economists said 1994 growth looks like outstripping the 2.75 per cent forecast by the government in June.

Revised data from the Central Statistical Office (CSO) showed that gross domestic product (GDP) grew at one per cent in the second quarter from the first rather than 0.9 per cent.

That meant the economy was 3.7 per cent bigger than in the second quarter of 1993 rather than 3.3 per cent.

Economist Adrian Cooper at brokers James Capel said the big revisions added credence to Capel's forecast that 1994 growth would reach 3.5 per cent. He now expected the consensus forecast in financial markets to move to 3.5 per cent from three per cent.

"On the basis of these figures the economy could stand still for the final two quarters of the year and we would still end up with annual growth above 2.5 per cent," Mr. Cooper said.

The government raised its forecast for full-year growth in June, but only to 2.75 per cent from 2.5 per cent.

"That looked cautious even when they made it," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley in London.

British government bond dealers took one look at the revision to the headline GDP figure and marked prices lower on renewed interest-rate worries. Shares fell back in sympathy, though activity in both markets was subdued. Some economists have been concerned that strong consumer spending would

suck in imports because British manufacturing industry was still too feeble to match demand. The government might then be obliged to raise interest rates to cool the economy down and prevent a balance-of-payments crisis.

However, recent trade figures have calmed those fears, since exports are growing more quickly than imports.

Separate CSP data brought further good trade news, though it was too historical to help the financial markets.

The CSO revised its estimate of the current account deficit in 1993 down to £10.3 billion (\$15.95 billion) from an estimate of £10.9 billion (\$16.88 billion) in June. It has forecast £9.5 billion (\$14.71 billion) for 1994, and economists said a deficit of that order was manageable.

## Ukraine easing exchange curbs but may be slow

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's new administration announced plans Tuesday to reopen the Kiev currency exchange and ease state control over markets, but economists called the moves half-hearted.

A decree signed by President Leonid Kuchma aims to bring the overvalued official foreign-exchange rate of Ukraine's currency, the karbovanets, gradually in line with the much lower market rate by the end of the year.

It also ordered the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange to resume trading on Oct. 1. The bourse was closed last November after

the government accused it of fuelling inflation.

But economists said the decree fell short of expectations and they criticised its vague wording and long deadlines.

"I can't imagine that the (International Monetary Fund) and other institutions will be pleased with this. It's quite different from what Kuchma and his advisers had led us to believe," said one Western diplomat.

"This is a recipe for further drift. They've essentially maintained the same system, perhaps knocking off some of the rough edges," he added.

Mr. Kuchma's administration is under pressure to right the economy to receive \$4 billion in aid promised by Western economic institutions provided Ukraine starts serious reforms. An IMF mission is in Kiev to work on an economic stabilisation programme with the government.

But a conservative parliament and government are pushing for more centralised control of the economy.

"This is not a simple issue and the decree is a compromise. I am certain we will be criticised by both the left and the right," Mr. Kuchma's top

economic adviser Anatoly Halchynsky told a news briefing.

"There were serious differences on this. We will have to work with the parliament on this," he said.

Mr. Halchynsky said the government hoped the reopening of the exchange would open the door to a Western-backed currency stabilisation fund. The sooner such a fund was set up, he said, the sooner Ukraine would have real market exchange rates.

Ukraine has two exchange rates — an official rate used

for the sale of 50 per cent of companies' hard-currency earnings, and a second rate set at weekly central bank auctions.

Under the terms of the decree, the official rate will be based on a series of factors, including inflation, monetary creation and the trade balance. There is no direct link to the market rate.

Economists have long criticised the lack of a free exchange rate and the compulsory sale of export earnings, saying they discouraged exporters and led to widespread capital flight and government corruption.

## German growth accelerating

BONN (R) — The German economy is picking up tempo, the labour market is stabilising and inflation is retreating, Economics Minister Gensler Rexrodt has said.

But he declined to comment on where the Bundesbank's official interest rates were headed.

The government has raised its projection for 1994 per cent economic growth to 2.0-2.5 per cent from its earlier projection of 1.0-1.5 per cent, Mr. Rexrodt said.

"The German economy in both east and west finds itself in a clear updraft," he said.

West German gross domestic product (GDP) grew by one per cent in the second quarter of 1994 from the first quarter and was up two per cent from the same

quarter a year earlier. West German GDP is now expected to grow between 1.5-2.0 per cent in 1994, up from earlier forecasts of growth of 0.5-1.0 per cent.

With Oct. 16 parliamentary elections approaching, trade unions and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) say the government has painted too rosy a picture of the economy, but Mr. Rexrodt said the new data showed the government had been following the right policy line.

Data released recently showed that west German GDP grew by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter from the previous quarter and by 2.1 per cent from the same quarter a year earlier.

The east German economy, meanwhile, is adding to an already blistering pace

of expansion as investment picks up. Growth there is now seen at 8.0-10.0 per cent for 1994, up from the government's earlier expectation of 6.0-8.0 per cent.

Despite accelerating growth, prices in Germany were stabilising, Mr. Rexrodt said, adding that he expected inflation to slow to 2.5 per cent this year and 2.0 per cent in 1995.

Mr. Rexrodt said business expectations were the best they had been in 20 years. Upturns in the economies of Germany's major trading partners were also contributing to export strength despite the dollar's weakness, he said.

"We can live with the relatively strong mark," he said, because 70 per cent of German exports went to other European countries.

## India's navy chief calls for expansion of fleet

BOMBAY (R) — India's naval chief has called for a higher budget to expand the country's extensive blue water fleet in order to protect trade along India's sea lanes as it continues to open up its economy after decades of protectionism.

"With the opening up of our economy, we are once again becoming a major trading nation over the seas," said Admiral V.S. Shekhawat.

"We therefore require a sufficiently strong navy to safeguard India's maritime interests," Admiral Shekhawat said.

The navy's current budget of 30 billion rupees (\$937 million), which is 13 per cent of India's total defence budget, was inadequate, Admiral Shekhawat said.

"With a 15 per cent defence budget allocation for the navy, all I can possibly do is arrest the downside," he

said. "What I require is not just to arrest the downside, but a significant reversal, for which 18 to 20 per cent of the total defence budget is essential."

Admiral Shekhawat said that the Indian navy wants to build its own ships to standardise on equipment and spare parts and reduce expenses on training, all of which are much higher now because of the variety of ships in the fleet.

"We propose to go for indigenous general purpose frigates," he said, adding that government approval for a bigger budget would result in the fleet expanding substantially in about 10 years.

Analysts believe India's tightening of its purse strings for defence in recent years has been influenced by current views on regional security and the economic reforms launched in mid-1991.

The Indian Ocean, focus of a blue water fleet India sought

to build in the 1980s, is now a relatively low area of strategic concern after the end of the cold war and following New Delhi's rapprochement with Beijing, the analysts say.

India, ally of the Soviet Union in the cold war and a rival of China after their border war in 1962, had alarmed countries as far away as Australia and southeast Asia as its navy's blue water reach began to grow.

The concern reached a peak when India acquired on lease a nuclear-powered submarine from the Soviet Union in 1989.

Asked if the navy's submarine design group had drawn up plans for a locally made nuclear-powered submarine, Admiral Shekhawat said that only conventionally powered submarines were being sought at present.

Admiral Shekhawat also rejected the option of purchasing aircraft carriers to replace the ageing Vikrant.

## South Africa recovery still fragile, central bank says

JONANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's year-long recovery from its longest recession on record remained fragile and could easily lose momentum if labour friction persisted, Reserve (central) Bank Governor Chris Stals said Tuesday.

He ruled out any quick-fix solutions to the economic challenges of post-apartheid South Africa, including widespread unemployment in which 29 per cent of the labour force was unable to find paid work.

"It is an unequivocal fact ... that massive unemployment will remain a feature for some time to come as a legacy of the dismal performance of the South Africa economy over the past decade," he told the bank's annual meeting.

The economy started to recover in 1993 after four years of recession, which in-

cluded "three-in-a row of economic shrinkage."

Mr. Stals said however, that growth faltered early this year amid uncertainties ahead of the country's first all-race elections in April.

"The recovery must still be regarded as fragile," he said. "It could easily lose its momentum again, particularly if the current friction between various trade unions and employers is not resolved soon."

He spoke against the background of a wave of strikes, accompanied by annual wage negotiations, aimed at securing the "better life for all" promised by President Nelson Mandela in his election campaign.

Production disruptions had already persuaded Finance Minister Derek Keys to drop his sights from 3.0-4.0 per cent growth for 1994, although he said recently he still expected more than 2.5 per cent following 1.2 per cent last year.

Mr. Stals urged the country to face its economic challenges in the same spirit in which it had approached "almost insurmountable"

problems of socio-political reform.

"On the one hand, the country is faced with massive but not unreasonable expectations of its people for better living conditions and a better standard of life. On the other, we have limited resources," he said.

He reaffirmed his commitment to disciplined monetary policy and the anti-inflation fight which had reduced the rate of growth in prices to single digits in 1993 for the first year in 20, and had kept it below eight per cent this year.

"We have not yet succeeded in breaking the inflation psychosis," he said, adding high inflation particularly hit the poor by eroding their living standards more.

South Africans, he said, had to rid themselves of the illusion that a solution to economic problems lay in artificial changes to prices.

"We cannot make South Africa rich just by depreciating the exchange rate, by lowering interest rates, by increasing wages, or by creating more inflation," he pointed out.

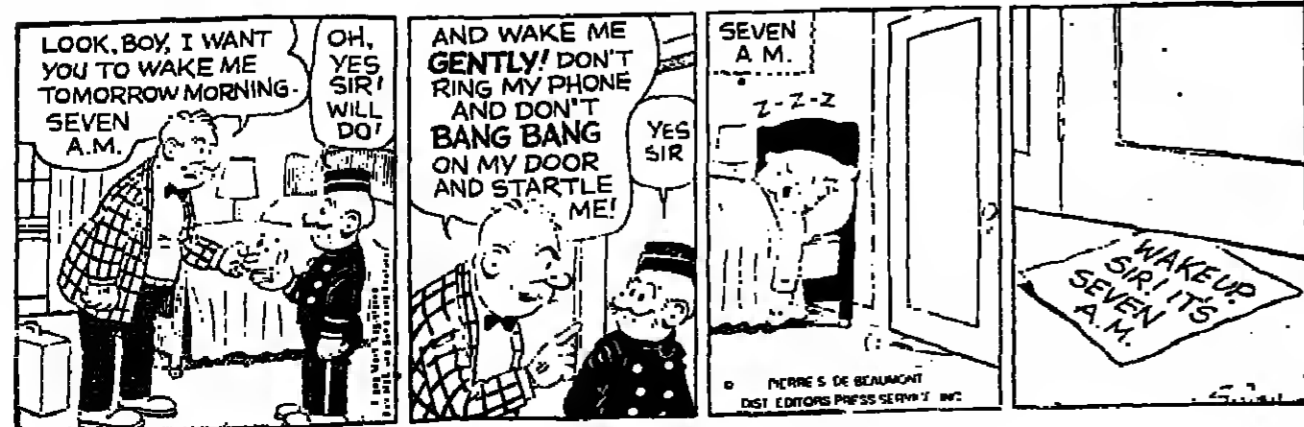
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** If you decide to get into civic work you will increase your prestige and make many new friends that will prove vital to your business interests. Be your own generous self and express your happiness.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to be where you can gain knowledge and advance in career activities. Show more devotion to family members.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Study the best way to carry through with any agreements you have made and get the right results. Be wise in all of your decisions.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Figure out how to have better relations with allies. Be more willing to compromise at home for the sake of harmony.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Find a more up-to-date system for handling your obligations and you could have greater efficiency and benefits.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Planning social events and recreations for the future is wise at this time. Study outlets which can give you added income.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Look into new interests through which to better express

yourself. Take treatments to improve your health and appearance.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Use a new system and improve your regular routines. Go to the right sources for the information you need to get the results of a project.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make plans which could give you more abundance in the future. Try not to argue with others in the evening or you could be sorry.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You are now able to get the backing of higher-ups in a new project you have in mind. Express happiness tonight to your loved ones.

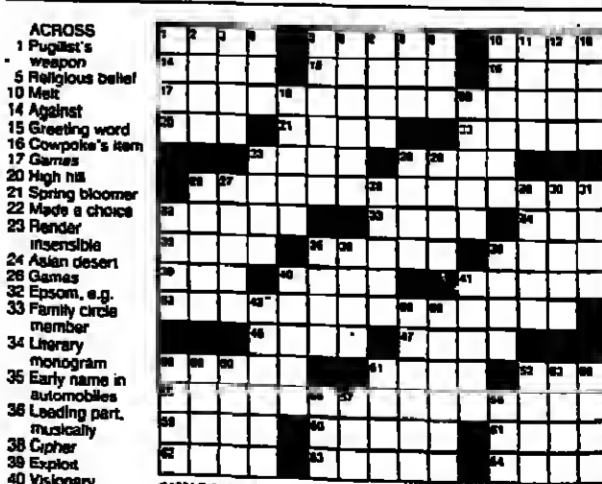
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Making needed changes where your work is concerned will bring good results at this time. Be logical in all of your decisions.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Be your own generous self and express happiness with all the friends you can. Take no risks in motion or you could get into trouble.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Have serious talks with associates so that you can take advantage of a new situation. Be more reassuring to your loved one of your devotion.

Birthstone of August:  
Peridot — Golden Quartz

## THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson



## Financial Markets

**Jordan Times**  
in co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 22/8/94	Tokyo Close 23/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.3363	1.3320
Deutsche Mark	1.5284	1.5344
Swiss Franc	1.2885	1.2935
French Franc	3.2385	3.2540**
Japanese Yen	97.83	98.13
European Currency Unit	1.2420	1.2399**

USD Per STD  
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. EDT  
Source: Reuters

Interbank Interest Rates  
Date: 23/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.68	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.68	4.73	5.06
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25	4.30
French Franc	5.87	5.50	5.61	6.21
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.12	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.71	5.88	6.15	6.59

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin  
Date: 23/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0733	1.0749
Deutsche Mark	0.4508	0.4531
Swiss Franc	0.3343	0.3372
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.7847	0.7882
Dutch Guilder	0.4016	0.4036
Swedish Krona	0.0443	0.0443
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0443
Belgian Franc	0.0443	0.0443

Other Currencies  
Date: 23/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320
Lebanese Lira	0.040350	0.041830
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1833
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3130	2.8430
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1901
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7280	1.7240
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1887
Greek Drachma	0.2685	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3940	1.4950

## China demands fall in sky-high fertiliser prices

BEIJING (R) — China has ordered a cut in costs of fertiliser, clearly worried that sky-high prices will infuriate already unhappy farmers and worsen inflation.

Economic chief Zhu Rongji ordered major dealers to sell fertiliser at state-set rates and lower runaway prices within a set period, the official China Daily said.

He threatened speculators with punishment, and demanded large fertiliser enterprises sell at least 90 per cent of their produce to the state.

But Mr. Zhu said the controls do not mark a return to the days when the socialist state strictly controlled the whole of the economy.

"We should not consider the government's efforts to regulate the market and monitor prices as a step backwards to the days of planned economy," the newspaper quoted the vice premier as saying.

China, which has led the world in economic growth for two years, is battling an economy that is threatening to overheat.

Despite government efforts, inflation is still high, with the retail sales index in major cities growing at a year-on-year rate of 22.7 per cent in June.

Inflation in the price of grain in major cities rocketed to a yearly 52 per cent that month.

Farmers have been unhappy for several years because of high government levies and payments for their crops in promissory notes instead of in cash.

Several outbreaks of rural unrest have been reported, and the government is worried that some farmers will simply stop growing the food China needs to feed its 1.2 billion people.

## Israeli top shares rise sharply

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli blue chip shares rose sharply in high turnover for the second consecutive session Tuesday after plunging on government plans to impose a 10 per cent capital gains tax, traders said.

The benchmark Mishkanim index rose 4.63 points, or 2.74 per cent, to 173.53. The MAOF 25 index of large corporations gained 2.40 per cent to 173.13. Turnover was high at 211 million shekels, compared with 220 million shekels Monday.

Last week the government announced plans for a 10 per cent capital gains tax and closed the market for two days. The exchange reopened Sunday in a selling stampede that sent the Mishkanim down nearly 10 per cent.

Traders said the tax fears were no longer affecting the market. The session was quiet and normal, rising on a technical correction to the plunge, and gains Israeli shares made on Monday in New York.

## Arab Gulf states to discuss new petrochemical projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states will hold their fourth petrochemical conference this year to discuss new investments in the sector to take advantage of possible new export outlets following the recent deal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), officials said Tuesday.

The Nov. 21-23 conference, to be held in the Qatari capital Doha, will bring together officials and experts from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and key consumers of petrochemicals and fertilisers as well as representatives of banks and financing companies, the officials said.

"The conference will be held under the title of investment opportunities in the GCC petrochemical and fertilisers industries," an official from the GCC secretariat told AFP by telephone from his Riyadh headquarters.

It will be the fourth such meeting to be organised by GCC countries which are seeking to expand their energy sector to face growing world demand.

Although they control more than 40 per cent of the world's oil, GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) produce a fraction of the world's petrochemical output.

According to official Gulf figures, petrochemical production capacity by all Arab states is estimated at 13.2 million tonnes per year compared with the world's total output of around 298 million tonnes. Only eight million tonnes of the Arab petrochemical production are exported.

The Arab petrochemical capacity has little changed over the past decade and Gulf officials have cited protectionism in industrial countries as the main obstacle for expanding their petrochemical industry.

GCC nations have been locked in negotiations with their main partner the European Union (EU) for more than eight years for a removal of a 13-15 per cent tax on their petrochemical exports. But the negotiations have made little headway as the EU fears such a move could threaten its independent petrochemical industry by flooding its market with cheaper Gulf products.

A study by the UAE oil ministry monthly bulletin showed GCC petrochemical exports to western industrial countries do not exceed 8.7 per cent of their total petrochemicals will not harm their own industry. On the contrary, this will prompt producers there to boost output and upgrade their competitiveness by cutting prices.

This in turn will benefit the local consumers in the industrial states," it said.

But it is hoped that the recent GATT deal will help expand the existing markets for GCC petrochemicals and find new outlets although it allows importers to impose some restrictions on imports if their markets are flooded," the study noted.

Gulf states have a large competitive edge over petrochemical producers in most other countries given their huge oil and gas reserves, estimated respectively at 460 billion barrels and around 20 trillion cubic metres.

According to a study by the Dammam-based Arab Corporation for Petroleum Investment, GCC states need to spend around \$9 billion on new petrochemical projects until the year 2000. Total investments could exceed \$21 billion until 2010, including \$7 billion on export projects.

Given their financial difficulties caused by low crude prices, the six members would be forced to borrow or bring in foreign partners, it said.

The Doha conference would be opened by Qatari Energy Minister Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attayya and would attract nearly 300 officials and experts, the Gulf press quoted Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad Al Thani as saying.

"This meeting constitutes an opportunity for officials and businessmen to exchange views and experience and for encouraging investment in this field," said Sheikh Abdullah, head of the Qatari industrial development department.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel: 667171

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$100 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3770/80	Deutsche marks
1.5325/35	Dutch guilders
1.7198/08	Swiss francs
1.2905/15	Belgian francs
31.58/62	French francs
5.2505/55	Italian lire
1564.3/5.8	Japanese yen
98.32/42	Swedish crowns
7.794/94	Norwegian crowns
6.7401/51	Danish crowns
0.6000/50	
\$1.5528/38	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	\$381.50/382.00

## Analysts expect Lloyd's to return to profit in 1993

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London will finally return to profit on its 1993 year of account after running up losses totalling close to £9 billion (\$14 billion) in the last five years, independent analysts said Tuesday.

The insurance market fell into the red on its 1988 underwriting year when a series of catastrophes combined with poor underwriting practices and a surge in U.S. pollution and asbestos claims plunged the market into its worst-ever crisis.

Analysts Chatset said Lloyd's, which reports results three years in arrears, will return to a pure profit of around £800 million (\$1.24 billion) on its 1993 underwriting year.

However, Chatset analyst Charles Sturge added that the pure profit for the 1993 year would be reduced to around £300 million (\$466 million) after including losses from claims made on insurance policies written in the past.

"There will be a profit, just, but it won't be very evenly spread," Mr. Sturge said at the launch of Chatset's latest Lloyd's League Tables publication.

More than half the 33,000 Lloyd's backers, known as names, who belonged to the market in the late 1980s will still be getting bills for losses when Lloyd's announces its 1993 result — in 1995 or 1996 — he added.

Chatset estimates Lloyd's 1992 loss, to be unveiled next year, at around £1 billion (\$1.55 billion). That is down from the £2.6 billion (\$4.04 billion) deficit for 1991 announced in May this year but is still bad news for names, some of whom already face bankruptcy.

Lloyd's is on an improving trend after losses peaked at a record £2.9 billion (\$4.51 billion) in 1990, Mr. Sturge said, but added that the 300-year-old market was not out of the woods.

The cumulative losses were putting an increasing financial strain on the ability of the market and its individual backers to pass the statutory annual solvency test.

Lloyd's has acted to help names in the short term by postponing the day they have to pay at least part of their losses. This year, for example, Lloyd's has estimated that it will call on names to stump up around £1.7 billion (\$2.64 billion), some £900 million (\$1.40 billion) below the headline figure announced in May.

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## Rangers fear Greek tragedy

PARIS (AFP) — Glasgow Rangers fear AEK Athens may do a Galatasaray to them on Wednesday night when the Scottish champions try to recover a two-goal deficit in their European Cup preliminary round clash.

The Turkish side knocked Manchester United out of the European Cup last season and Rangers will need to play a lot better than they did in Greece to survive.

French international Basile Boli, suspended for the first leg game for the yellow card he picked up playing for Olympique Marseille in the 1993 European Cup final win over AC Milan, will be back in the Rangers' defence.

But Danish forward Brian Lundrup, who made Mark Hateley's goal in their 2-0 Scottish Premier League victory at Partick Thistle on Saturday, will probably play a bigger role in deciding how Rangers' European destiny shapes up.

The winners qualify for the same group as holders Milan, Ajax Amsterdam and very probably Casio Salzburg, who won 2-1 at Maccabi Haifa in their preliminary

round 1st leg match.

Paris St. Germain, who lost to eventual winners Arsenal in the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final last season, have also had to pre-qualify under UEFA's not easily understood seeding system.

Paris rewarded Portuguese coach Artur Jorge for winning the French championship by replacing him with Luis Fernandez. But under Fernandez, one of France's famous 1984-86 midfield quartet, Paris have lost two of their first five domestic matches.

However, they demolished Hungarian opponents VAC Samsung 3-0 in the first leg when Liberian striker George Weah scored his only goal so far this season.

They will be without full-back Patrick Colletier, sent off for stamping on Jozsef Zvara, and probably David Ginola. The fiery forward, installed as captain by Fernandez, has a groin strain.

Fernandez said he would take all four foreign players to Hungary which might mean a game for Brazil's deposed World Cup captain Rai.



Diego Maradona

## FIFA panel to decide Maradona's future

ZURICH (AFP) — Diego Maradona is unlikely to make a personal appearance here on Wednesday when FIFA decides what action to take against the Argentine captain who was expelled from the World Cup in June for using drugs.

"I doubt if he'll attend the hearing," said FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren, although Maradona has steadfastly insisted he will defend himself against charges he took the drugs to improve his performance.

The international football federation's standing World Cup committee will not, however, rule on whether the epidemic drugs for which he tested positive were taken as a stimulant, anabolic steroid or simply as part of a herbal diet.

"The medical aspect of this affair will not be examined," Herren said. Instead, the nine-man committee will restrict itself to passing sentence for a breach of rules.

"There's no precedent," Herren added.

However, Maradona was the fourth player to fail a drug test at a World Cup. Haiti's Ernest Jean-Joseph in 1974, Scotland's Willie Johnston in 1978 and Spain's Ramon Caldera in 1986 all tested positive.

FIFA accepted Spain's explanation in 1986 that Caldera, who had missed his country's first two matches through sickness, was unwittingly prescribed uppedrine by a Mexican doctor.

Maradona had put himself

## Juventus lead assault on Milan's crown

ROME (R) — Juventus have installed a new management team and invested heavily in foreign midfielders Didier Deschamps and Paolo Sousa as they try to break AC Milan's domination of the Italian soccer scene.

The Turin club, who won the last of their record 22 league titles back in 1986, have dispensed with the services of legendary coach Giovanni Trapattoni and General Manager Giampiero Boniperti as they seek to end that long barren spell.

With Trapattoni playing his trade in Germany at Bayern Munich and Boniperti elected to the European Parliament, coach Marcello Lippi and former Italy winger Roberto Bettega have taken charge.

Juventus and provincial Parma, who have never won the title, look the teams most likely to deny Milan a fourth straight league championship.

Sampdoria, champions in 1991 before Milan took over, look to prove there is life after Rudi Gutli while free-scoring Lazio and a rebuilt Roma aim to bring the title to the capital for only the fourth time.

"I don't think the fans will demand we win the title but they will want us to remain in the running until the final Sunday," said former Napoli coach Lippi, looking ahead to a season which begins on September 4.

Frenchman Deschamps and Portugal's Sousa, signed from Olympique Marseille and Sporting Lisbon respectively, will be asked to supply the bullets for an attack featuring Italian World Cup hero Roberto Baggio.

Baggio is expected to be

partnered by Gianluca Vialli, the former international whose career has gone rapidly downhill since he moved from Sampdoria in a deal valued at a world record \$20 million in 1992.

Now aged 30, it is a make-or-break year for Vialli after a foot injury ruled him out for much of last season.

Juveons also have high hopes of 19-year-old attacker Alessandro del Piero, scorer of five goals in just 11 first team appearances last season.

But Juventus fans fear that the other Baggio — Dino — will return to haunt them.

The Turin team controversially sold the tall midfielder to Parma during the World Cup, a decision which embarrassed them as the 23-year-old emerged as one of Italy's stars.

Parma, a third division team less than a decade ago, aim to cap their remarkable rise with a first Italian title, having already lifted Europe's Cup Winners' Cup in 1993.

They have reinforced their defence with the signing of Italy World Cup defender Roberto Mussi and hired Portuguese stopper Fernando Couto while Colombian Fausto Asprilla has plenty to prove in attack after his World Cup flop.

"This is the strongest squad I've ever worked with," enthused Parma coach Nevio Spina.

Parma have traded striker Alessandro Melli to Sampdoria and he will have the tough task of replacing Gullit, who has returned to Milan after a season in exile with the Genoese team.

Sampdoria, who finished third behind Milan and Juventus last season and won the Italian Cup, have also

## Galatasaray looking for trouble-free game

LONDON (AP) — Turkish league champions Galatasaray, banned from its home stadium after another episode of fan violence, is pulling out all the stops to make sure things go smoothly when it plays Avenir Beggen in the champions cup this week.

"Any further incidents involving Turkish football clubs will lead to severe punishments," said team official Adnan Polat, who travelled to Izmir for a special security meeting to outline measures for Wednesday's second-leg, preliminary round game.

European soccer governing body UEFA ordered that the match be played at least 300 kilometres from Galatasaray's regular home venue in Istanbul as punishment for incidents at the first leg game in Luxembourg. Both sides were hit by objects thrown by Turkish supporters during the match, who by Galatasaray 5-1.

Izmir, some 350 kilometres to the south along Turkey's

east coast, was just far enough away to satisfy UEFA as a second-leg host. Now the team wants to make sure nothing else happens that will lead to further sanctions.

Polat said security measures would be twice as stringent as usual and that fans would be searched thoroughly before entering the stadium.

"Fans who have consumed alcohol prior to the game will not be admitted," he said.

With a four-goal advantage in hand, Galatasaray is almost certain to progress to the champions league stage of the tournament, where it would face another potential volatile game against Manchester United.

Last season's Galatasaray-United match at Istanbul, also in the Champions Cup, was one of the dark spots of the season. More than 100 United fans were arrested, anti-United demonstrations took place in front of the

British embassy and United players claimed they were assaulted by police as they left the field.

The game ended in a 0-0 draw, eliminating United from the tournament. Should Galatasaray finish off Avenir Beggen on Wednesday, the Parisians, however, have been struggling under new coach Luis Fernandez and have dropped to 15th place in the French league after five games.

Both coaches say their players are suffering the effects of a short summer break.

"I agree with Fernandez who said the season started too early," VAC coach Hans Canak said. "My players were under a lot of stress in the spring games and it seems the summer break was too short for them to revive. Now we hardly have time to train with one game coming after the other."

Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers, in danger of an early exit from the competition for the second year running, must make-up a 2-0 first-leg deficit at home against AEK Athens.

Casino Salzburg, runner-up to Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup last year, holds a 2-1 lead over Maccabi Haifa of Israel as it prepares to host the second leg.

## Passarella set to sign as Argentine national coach

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Daniel Passarella, a strict disciplinarian and advocate of fast-flowing soccer, is expected to sign this week as Argentina's national team coach following their disappointing World Cup.

Although yet to agree terms, Passarella, Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning captain, was offered the job earlier this month by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) as successor to Alfio Basile.

Passarella, 41, quit on Sunday as coach of River Plate, a club where he won titles and respect after putting faith in youth and demanding discipline from players both on and off the pitch.

Backed by differing factions in the Caudron of the AFA, Passarella has been billed as one of a new breed of hard but pragmatic soccer coaches.

"Passarella is part of a new generation of Argentine soccer coaches," 1986 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Bilardo said. "The won't claim to be a know-all and is prepared to adapt. Most importantly, he won't lie."

Basile, whose side was knocked out in the second round of this year's World Cup in the United States, quit in July saying there was no point being second best in a country like Argentina.

Memories of a 33-match unbeaten run dating back to 1991 and two Copa America titles counted for nothing when results began to go against him in the run-up to the World Cup.

Basile, traumatised after Argentina lost 5-0 to Colombia in a World Cup

qualifier, lost authority over his players as well as the respect of a soccer-mad public.

Under pressure to recall ageing star Diego Maradona and the disgraced Claudio Caniggia, who had recently ended a 15-month ban for drug abuse, Basile discarded the end of their careers. Argentine soccer is crying out for a national team boss prepared to gamble on new talent.

"He's got exactly what it takes, and is the only man up to the task," Cesar Luis Menotti, the coach who picked Passarella as Argentina captain for the 1978 World Cup, said.

Passarella's record speaks for itself. In four years he has won three titles at River Plate and nurtured future stars such as Ariel Ortega and Hernan Crespo.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Munitions blast wounds 3 Israeli soldiers

TEL AVIV (AP) — An explosion at a munitions depot in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem Tuesday wounded three Israeli soldiers, the army said. Israeli radios said the blast appeared to be accidental but the army said it was probing a possibility of sabotage. Israel's Itim news agency said the explosion occurred shortly after 1430 (1130 GMT) in a tent where ammunition is kept at the military government headquarters in Bethlehem, setting off a chain of other blasts that wounded the soldiers. It said that the depot is located near a tent where Palestinian detainees are kept. Two troops were injured slightly and a third was listed in moderate condition the army said.

## Iran trains tribesmen in military exercises

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran launched manoeuvres Tuesday aimed at training tribes along the western border with Iraq in defensive military exercises, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said several "battalions" comprising tribesmen from across western Bakhtaran province will take part in the two-day exercises. It said tribesmen in traditional garb and on horseback trained in the open fields in tactics aimed at stopping "enemy" incursions.

## Palestinian minister appeals for more Japanese aid

TOKYO (APF) — Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian economic and trade minister, called on Japan Tuesday to expand economic aid for Palestinian self-rule, particularly to help build up its peacekeeping police. "The Palestinian police are a peacekeeping police. They are not military forces," he told a news conference. "Therefore I believe that support for the police is real support for the peace process." Japan has pledged \$200 million over two years in aid to Palestinian autonomy, by financing reconstruction of the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Qureia said he had asked Japanese leaders to extend Japan's aid pledge from two to five years to cover the transition period while Palestinian authorities face "serious challenges" in maintaining peace and economic development. He said Japanese officials had reacted favourably and that "there will be very good results."

## Kabul denies Russian border claims

KABUL (APF) — A presidential spokesman here Tuesday refuted Russian allegations that their security troops stationed along the sensitive Afghan-Tajik international border were recently attacked from inside Afghanistan. "We are following our usual policy of non-interference," the spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said. "We consider this a globally recognised principle and we expect the same treatment from others." Mr. Morad added, Afghanistan considers the issue of Tajikistan an internal question, and it was "up to the Tajik people themselves to solve their own problems," he said. Mr. Morad said the large population of Tajik refugees still living in northern Afghanistan were afforded humanitarian assistance only, denying alleged military training or arming of the refugees. "The clashes on the border were between Tajik guerrillas on one side and Tajik and Russian soldiers on the other side," said Mr. Morad.

## Heat kills 30 in eastern Sudan

KHARTOUM (APF) — A wave of crushing heat and humidity have claimed the lives of 30 persons in the eastern region of Port Sudan, the army newspaper Al Guwat Al Mushala said Tuesday. The paper said the death toll reached its peak on Friday when 11 died. Temperatures in eastern Sudan have recently soared to 44 degrees Centigrade (112 Fahrenheit).

## Two Afghan drug smugglers killed in clash

TEHRAN (APF) — Iranian police shot dead two Afghan drug traffickers and seriously wounded another in eastern Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The clash occurred during a security operation Monday in the mountainous Abgharan region in Khorasan province near the Afghan border, IRNA said. A fourth Afghan drug trafficker was arrested. The security forces seized 106 kilograms of opium in the operation.

## Three members of Dev Sol killed in prison

ISTANBUL (APF) — Two men and a woman convicted for being members of the extreme-left revolutionary group Dev-Sol have been found murdered in two separate prisons in Turkey, police here said Tuesday. The victims were discovered over the weekend along with a communist left near their bodies which said that they had been "punished" by other Dev-Sol inmates for collaborating with authorities and causing the deaths of other members of the underground organisation, police said. Two of the victims, Hassan Hulusi Kulak and Simen Aydin, were found impaled in the prison of Bayrampasa, in Istanbul, and the third, Ahmet Celal Ozkul, was found strangled to death in the courtyard of a prison in Ankara, police added. Prison officials said a riot erupted in Bayrampasa prison after the discovery of the two bodies but it had been put down by Monday evening. Several inmates were injured during the riot which protested stiffer security measures following the two murders, the officials said.

## Turkish planes hit Kurd bases in Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Turkish jets struck a Kurdish guerrilla base 230 kilometres inside northern Iraq on Tuesday, the latest in a series of cross-border raids aimed at separatist forces, a military spokesman said. He said 32 planes took part in the attack on a base 60 kilometres southwest of a big Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) camp at Zaleh. All planes returned safely to base. There was no immediate estimate of casualties, pending a reconnaissance mission over the region, he said. The military said on Monday it had carried out raids on Aug. 15 and 20, killing 92 guerrillas. The latest attack marked the eighth such assault within a month.

## Bomb explodes near Turkish palace

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb exploded on Tuesday in the garden of Istanbul's Topkapi palace, causing little damage and no injuries, police said. The 15th century palace, one of Istanbul's major tourist sites, is closed on Tuesdays. On Monday an explosion outside a military recruiting station in Istanbul killed three Turks and wounded four. Last week, a Romanian man died from injuries sustained in an Aug. 12 blast at a crowded international bus station.

## Court suspends Egyptian school veil decree

CAIRO (APF) — Government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools were dealt a blow on Tuesday when a court suspended a decree that girls must have their parents' permission to wear the veil in class. Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahaaeddin issued the ruling which was to come into effect in the new school year but it was challenged in court by Islamist lawyers representing schoolgirls' parents. The Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of the decree, saying it would later on whether it was constitutional. The lawyers said that the decree violated the dictates of Islam, as therefore unconstitutional. Al Azhar, the world's Sunni Muslim authority, also denounced the government measure. The Egyptian constitution is based on Islamic Sharia law, which rules that girls who reach puberty should wear the veil. But the minister said that his order did not ban the veil, but ensured that girls would not be forced to wear it by extremist teachers.



CLASHES IN DHAKA: Armed riot police on Tuesday chase supporters of deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad who tried to hold a rally in central Dhaka. Witnesses said at least 100 people, including

police were injured, in violent clashes during which police fired rubber bullets and tear gas. Mr. Ershad's opposition Jatiya Party supporters blasted home-made bombs and pelted stones (APF photo)

## 20 victims of Morocco air crash foreigners

RABAT (Agencies) — Twenty foreign travellers were among the 44 passengers and crew killed in the crash of a Royal Air Maroc aircraft on an internal flight, Sunday, officials said Tuesday.

Among the foreign victims were eight Italians, five French, four Dutch, two Kuwaitis, and one German woman identified as Elizabeth Steckel who was travelling with her 13-month-old daughter of Moroccan nationality.

The ATR 42 aircraft was on a flight to Casablanca and came down in remote terrain some 10 minutes after take-off from the southern coastal city of Agadir, killing all 40 passengers and four crew.

The crash was probably due to technical failure, state-run television reported Monday.

The aircraft's flight recorder, including the black box, had been sent to Casablanca for analysis, and would probably confirm the technical failure theory, the television said.

One of the Kuwaitis aboard was a prince and the brother of Kuwait Interior Minister Ahmad Al Hamud Al Jabber Al Sabah, the television said.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Herzog discussed preparations for celebrations, in May 1995, of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany, German presidential sources said.

The two men also discussed extreme-right violence in Germany, Mr. Peres saying he was satisfied with the degree to which German political parties had turned their back on racism and xenophobia.

In a meeting with Rita Süssmuth, president of the Bundestag (the lower house of the German parliament), the Israeli foreign minister said he was confident Germany would fight Nazism, anti-Semitism and "international terrorism," a Bundestag statement said.

Mr. Peres called on Germans to ask themselves what contribution Germany could make to the peace process and the new order in the Middle East.

On Monday, Mr. Peres, warning that nuclear smuggling from Eastern Europe could turn into an international threat, thanked Germany for its efforts to crack down on the illegal trade.

Mr. Peres said Bonn, which is pressing Moscow to tighten security around former Soviet nuclear plants, was right to try to seal the sources it blames for a rash of black market shipments uncovered in Germany in recent months.

"They may not be of military grade and they may not be in large quantities, but the potential danger is great," Mr. Peres said of several seized shipments of deadly plutonium and other materials.

## Zeroual is ready to allow opposition to contact FIS

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has moved to stem violent political strife by inviting the opposition to talk to the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), though some parties are hostile to contacts with the fundamentalists.

Mr. Zeroual on Monday encouraged five parties taking part in talks with the government — all favourable to FIS participation in politics — to go and meet the leaders of the dissolved party in prison to try and convince them to join the new talks.

Meanwhile, Abdul Kader Hachani, a senior FIS official, was reported Tuesday by the daily El Hiwar to have ended, at the request of the FIS leadership, a hunger strike he began on Aug. 8.

He began the action to press to be put on trial as quickly as possible and be considered a political prisoner, according to El Hiwar, which said that Mr. Hachani is currently in a cell with ordinary criminals.

Meanwhile, Islamic guerrillas were apparently continuing to carry out their threat to harm teachers and pupils when sociology professor Rabah Stambouli, 65, was shot dead Tuesday morning as he emerged from his home at Tizi Ouzou in Kabylie, police said.

Stambouli was well-known in Algerian intellectual circles for his writings in favour



Liamine Zeroual of a tolerant Islam.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which has vowed violently to disrupt the start of the new school year, is also thought responsible for hanging the deputy head of a training college in Si-Mustapha over the weekend and for blowing up or setting fire to some 20 schools and other academic institutions.

Islamic extremists began a violent campaign that has claimed more than 3,000 lives after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Zeroual stressed that before they could rejoin the political mainstream, FIS leaders must publicly adhere to principles which are "incontrovertible and non-

negotiable" and condemn violence, respect the constitutions, respect Islam as the state religion, allow political pluralism and democracy.

Mr. Zeroual recalled in the statement that last January he met jailed FIS leaders who had confirmed their willingness to contribute to ending the violence. Mr. Zeroual was then defence minister, a post he still holds.

FIS leaders Ali Djeddi and Abdul Kader Bouhankham, freed on February 22, had been "mandated to work for the halt to the violence," said the statement. "Six months after this measure, there has been no result."

The decision to allow encounters with FIS leaders could break the isolation surrounding the movement and return its voice to the mainstream with reports by politicians from the prison cells.

FIS leaders now communicate with followers via occasional letters sneaked out of prison or through its network of exiles in Europe and the United States. In a communiqué following the meeting, the president reiterated that he was not opposed to dialogue with the FIS — if they renounced violence.

The meeting was to continue on Wednesday. Three parties have refused to attend. Participants at the talks reported a more open attitude by authorities than in two previous encounters.

## Syrians prepare to go to the polls

DAMASCUS (APF) — Intellectuals, affluent traders and actors are among those hoping to win seats in the Syrian parliament when a two-day poll starts on Wednesday.

Women are also hoping to build on the 21 places they currently hold in the 250-seat People's Assembly.

It will be the sixth legislative election in Syria since President Hafez Al Assad, then defence minister, seized power in November 1970. The current parliament's four-year mandate ran out on June 10.

More than seven million Syrians are registered to vote on Wednesday and Thursday.

So far, 2,666 candidates are down to contest the elections, but the final number will not be known until late Tuesday.

One thing is certain — the majority of seats will again go to the National Progressive Front (NPF), a coalition of seven parties headed by Al Assad's ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party.

Of the 250 seats, 127 have been set aside for "workers and small farmers" by presidential decree, which described such constituents as "the productive force on which the economic development of the country depends."

The other 123 are reserved for other categories. Some 8,500 polling booths have been posted in the country's 15 regions. The poll is conducted according to a first-past-the-post system, the winning candidates being those who gain the most votes on a list.

The most skillful contenders hoping to ride on the coat-tails of the NPF have joined "open" lists run by the coalition. They include intellectuals, merchants and actors encouraged by the success of about 20 colleagues in the last elections in 1990 and a bitter contest has broken out among them.

Banners proclaiming the profession of each candidate have been hung up calling for development and modernisation, even though their electoral programmes remain unclear.

Meanwhile the NPF candidates have been canvassing under the slogan of "national unity."

Women are hoping to improve on their 1990 success, when the number of female deputies increased from 18 to 21.

## Diana 'a loose cannon'

LONDON (APF) — Diana, the Princess of Wales, is "a loose cannon", endangering a fragile monarchy, the British press opined Tuesday, after her public denial she had made nuisance phone calls to a millionaire friend.

The idea that there are forces... out to destabilise the Princess of Wales is, unhappily, not a completely implausible one," the centre-left daily The Guardian said in its comment. "The monarchy is going through one of its most fragile stages and the Princess of Wales is one among a number of loose cannons which could inflict severe, if not terminal damage upon its tottering infrastructure."

The conservative Daily Telegraph wrote: "There are today deep fears that the princess is a loose cannon on deck, an unhappy woman full of doubts and grievances, whose future course is uncertain."

The tabloid Daily Mirror also latched onto the phrase, saying her estranged husband Prince Charles's camp regarded her as "something of a loose cannon", lacking guidance, which could explode in any direction. "Friends of the prince, the heir to the throne, said he was 'more worried than angry' about Princess Diana's judgement."

Tory and opposition Labour MPs Monday demanded an inquiry into how the police investigation into the calls allegedly made to Old Etonian Oliver Hoare, 48, one of the world's most respected dealers in Islamic art, came to be leaked to the Sunday tabloid The New of the World. Scotland Yard was reported to have traced the calls to Princess Diana's private line in Kensington Palace, to her mobile phone, to a phone at the home of her sister, Lady Sarah, and to public phone boxes near the palace. Scotland Yard Monday declined to comment on any aspect of the story. There was also anger in the House of Commons Monday over reports, denied by the government, that a government minister intervened to have the police investigation aborted.

Young German lieutenant helped save Paris

BONN (APF) — On Aug. 22, 1944, Ernst Von Bressendorf, a 26-year-old German lieutenant and passionate Francophile, dared tamper with an emergency order from Adolf Hitler — and the city of Paris has been in his debt ever since. "A top secret order came over the teleprinter," Lt. Von Bressendorf recalled recently, after a lapse of 50 years. "After decoding it I realised it was an order from Hitler to blow up all public buildings, bridges and industrial sites in Paris." With Allied forces fast closing in on the city, then in the final days of Nazi occupation, Lt. Von Bressendorf made his move. "I held back the report for 12 hours, hoping it would be too late — because I loved France," Lt. Von Bressendorf was a communications officer assigned to the staff of General Dietrich Von Choltitz, the German commander in Paris. "When I finally gave the order to Von Choltitz, you could already hear the (Allied) guns in the distance." The former lieutenant remembers his chief as an "aggressive bulldog."

With his moniker, "he was the perfect embodiment of the Prussian general." Gen. Von Choltitz had previously been given standing orders to reduce the French capital to rubble if ever the Allies were to approach. But he too was torn between a duty to obey Hitler and the awful realisation that he would be remembered by history as the man who destroyed Paris. In those desperate final hours he was ordered to regroup his armour and artillery units and to call in the Luftwaffe to annihilate the "pockets of insurrection" that were emerging all over Paris as the allies bore down on the city. But by then it was too late to defend the capital and the Fuehrer's directive was ignored. On the eve of its liberation, a distraught Hitler was reported to have demanded of his staff: "Is Paris burning?" Hitler was disappointed, Paris was spared and its residents today are celebrating the 50th anniversary of its deliverance.

## 3 Somalis killed, 3 caught after ambush on U.N. force

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Indian soldiers of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia ended the hunt for the Somali killers of seven of their comrades after most of the gunmen got away, a U.N. spokesman said on Tuesday.

The search for the attackers, who fired anti-aircraft guns and mortars at Indian soldiers in the village of Burleego, 110 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu on Monday, ended with the killing of three Somalis and the capture of three others.

U.N. military spokesman Richard McDonald said Indian helicopters and ground troops gave up the search for the Somali militiamen who had apparently dispersed into the bush and surrounding villages following Monday's ambush.

The militiamen, whose weapons included mortars and anti-aircraft guns, had attacked a U.N. convoy made up of three civilian road contractors escorted by about 20 Indian peacekeepers in three vehicles.

The seven-hour battle which followed the attack was the bloodiest clash between U.N. forces and militia for months.

Major McDonald said the three detainees would be interrogated by personnel of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), but the motive for Monday's attack was not yet known.

Maj. McDonald said that nine soldiers had been injured and not six, as first announced by UNOSOM on Monday, and that all were in stable condition Tuesday in hospitals in Baidoa and Mogadishu.

He added that it was possible that more of the Somalis had been killed or wounded, but only three deaths could be confirmed.

On Monday, Maj. McDonald described the ambush as an unprovoked and carefully coordinated attack.

A number of weapons-equipped vehicles, normally used by Somali clan militia fighters, were destroyed as the U.N. troops fought back the attack, Mr. McDonald said.

The incident brought to 106 the number of U.N. peacekeepers killed in Somalia since May 1993.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali recommended Friday that the United Nations immediately cut its personnel in Somalia by 1,500 and that the force eventually be cut down to 15,000. U.N. military personnel in Somalia currently number 18,761.

Dr. Ghali said the force should be reduced to 15,000 before the end of October or during November.

In the latest attack, the militia struck in territory held by the Habre Gedir clan of Mohammad Farab Aided, the warlord who battled U.N. and American troops in the streets of Mogadishu last year.

Habre Gedir forces have been shooting and looting their way through much of southern and central Somalia since U.S. and other Western forces pulled out of the country in March.

A total of 20 peacekeepers have died since March, when the 18,700-strong Asian and African army was given a limited mandate to protect

humanitarian work, far safer than the previous task of disarming the clans and enforcing peace.

The Security Council and Dr. Ghali described Monday's attack as "treacherous and cowardly."

In New Delhi, opposition politicians called for the withdrawal of Indian forces from Somalia, but the defence ministry said there were no plans to do so at this stage.

"Just because of one incident, the government is not thinking in terms of pulling out its troops," a senior government official told Reuters. India sent its first U.N. peacekeepers into Somalia in October 1993 and has one of the largest contingents with about 5,000 soldiers.

The killings prompted an outcry from Indian opposition lawmakers who quickly called on Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to cut the country's losses and pull out the troops.

"The move (into Somalia) was nothing but to aid the American imperialistic designs," Communist Party member E. Balanadan said. "The government should take a national consensus before deputising Indian contingents on such missions."

I.K. Gujral of the Janata Dal Party, a former foreign minister, said the soldiers had given their lives for a cause about which "we have doubts."

"We will not pull out just because some people have been killed," said another senior official. "Our soldiers are doing a good job in Somalia and creating a good name for India."

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